RoadRunner

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Staff Newsletter May 2010

Olympian Effort Leads to Transportation Triumph

Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

Ministry staff across the province worked above and beyond the call of duty to welcome the world to Vancouver and Whistler during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Feb. 12-28. With intense care, employees performed a myriad of transportation tasks for the largest event ever held in British Columbia.

Everyone knew the estimated daily movement of about 250,000 spectators, visiting about 65 venues, would severely test the region's transportation system.

The Olympic Paralympic Transportation Team, working with VANOC at outset, was a core group of ministry staff including Joyce Chang, John Bodnarchuk, David Mintak, Amy Choh, Winnie Wong, Kate Sloan and Brian Atkins, and consultant Nasir Kurji. Their responsibility on the Olympic Paralympic Transportation Team was for Whistler, Sea-to-Sky Highway and Burrard Crossings traffic management plans, highway maintenance, incident management and contingency plans.

Public Service Deputy Minister Allan Seckel (top row, third from left) met with employees at the Olympic Transportation Management Centre.

Concurrent with these activities, Tom Greene and Greg Gilks with their dedicated teams from the Passenger Transportation Branch and Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) developed the 2010 Games licensing and regulations for taxis, limousines and buses.

The common goal was to collaborate with transportation partners to provide integrated transportation services to all the athletes, officials, organizers and spectators drawn to the Olympics, while minimizing the impact on local residents and businesses.

One of the Olympic Paralympic Transportation Team's first tasks, when it was formed about two years ago, was to develop traffic models which simulated existing traffic flow and projected Olympic traffic demands. These were invaluable for International Olympic Committee (IOC) presentations, and IOC officials were extremely impressed with the graphical tools and analysis.

Based on information generated by these traffic models, the team developed operational plans. Extensive work was done to integrate these plans with other operational strategies, such as VANOC's venue transportation, the Olympic bus network, transit operations, security operations, and City of Vancouver planning.

"Integrating the planning and implementation with 10 transportation agencies, practically every department within the ministry, and multiple stakeholders took the term "teamwork" to a new level," says Highways ADM Mike Proudfoot.

Continued on Page 3...

Editor's Note

Welcome to the Olympic Special Edition of Road Runner!

Not only did ministry employees respond enthusiastically to calls to work at the Olympics – they acted eagerly when asked to share their Olympic experiences with others in our ministry.

Read on and a picture emerges of folks who worked long hours – and not always in comfortable conditions (rising at 1:30 a.m. to groom a frozen slope, comes to mind). It was their joy and pride that kept them going through the rigours. Some might call it passion!

Ask anyone you know who took on an Olympic assignment, and you'll hear a common theme. "We put in a lot of time – but it was great!"

So cheers, to all who contributed to the Olympics – those who planned and oversaw the exceptionally smooth transportation routes, those who capitalized on trade and business opportunities, and those who put forward their heartfelt commitment and many skills to make the Olympics a success for athletes, spectators and the incredible volume of visitors who flocked to downtown Vancouver. ♦

You did us proud.

Nancy McLeod, Editor

Pacific Gateway staff showcase green transit opportunities at a reception.

RoadRunner Contents, May 2010

Olympian Effort Leads to Transportation Triumph Page 1
Pacific Gateway Olympic Hosting by the Numbers Page 6
Torch (Speedily) Relayed with a Glowing Heart Page 8
Torch Generates Excitement in West Kootenay Communities Page 9
Torch Reaches Highest Ground Page 9
Olympic Competitors Prepare at Mount Washington Page 10
Traffic Volumes Reflect Olympic Highlights Page 10
Creating Soft Landings for Aerial Athletes Page 11
Employees Smooth Passage, Cheer for Torch Page 11
Volunteers Test Athletes, Transport Spectators Page 12
Hosting at Canada Hockey Place Page 13
Hosting and Hockey Stars with the Games Secretariat Page 14
Hospitality Hosting in Lively Robson Square Page 15
Rabbit Hole or Yellow Brick Road? Page 16
You GOTTA Be Here at the Media Centre Page 17
My Vancouver 2010 Olympic Experience Page 18
Security Behind the Scene at Robson Square Page 19
Living the Dream with the Alpine Course Team Page 20
My Olympic Experience: An Alternative Reality Page 21
Winning Hockey Tickets a Suite Deal Page 22
Olympic Hockey Highlights Page 22
Northern Region Competes in Wii-inter Olympics Page 23
Mascot Knowledge Nets Olympic Mitts Page 23

Employee Advisory Forum

Career Profile: Leonard Sielecki Page 24
Career Profile: Abid Sivic Page 25
Do You Know? Page 25
Mentoring Moment – Good, Better, Best Page 25

The Provincial Transit Plan

Olympic Transit Success Achieved Page 26

You're a Winner

Cheryl Scott Earns Financial Management Certificate Page 27
Long Service Awards in the Okanagan-Shuswap Page 27
"Own the Podium" Has New Meaning for Branch Page 28
Long Service Recognized in SIR Page 28

Community Events

Highway Rollers Bowl Again Page 29

TRAN Who's Who

Planiden Performs at O Zone Page 30
Kevin and Kathryn Weicker Welcome Lilly Page 30
Silver Dagger Employs Stage Fighting Skills Page 31

You Never Know What You'll See

Olympic Hairstyle Trendsetter Page 32
Mounties Rise to the Occasion Page 32
Southern Interior Region Bonspiel an Olympic Success Page 33
Steamrollers Join Multi-Sport Relay Race Page 34
Premier's Awards Finalists Page 34

Onto New Vistas

Terry Murphy: Integrity, Service and Tenacity Page 35
Bob Corder Equipped for Retirement in the Okanagan Page 36
Nash "Leave it to me" Jamal to Retire Page 36
Al Planiden: Renaissance Roadside Vegetation Man Retires Page 37
The One and Only Bill Smith Page 38
Staff Roundup Page 39

The **RoadRunner** is an employee newsletter, published four times a year. We welcome your story submissions. Email your article as a Word document (approx. 350 words) and your photographs as jpegs to: **RoadRunner@**gov.bc.ca.

In the email for your story, please attach the text as a Word document and attach the graphics (photos, charts, etc.) as jpeg or pdf files. Please DO NOT embed graphics in the article – this compromises reproduction quality and the images may not be useable by our graphic artist.

You can check out the Employee Advisory Forum website for regular updates:
http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/EAF/home_intra.asp.

For @Work – the Public Service Community Website, visit:
https://gww.gov.bc.ca/

Browse the TRAN Online Store at:
http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/gwwhr/content/store/onlinestore.pdf

Olympian Effort Leads to Transportation Triumph ...Continued from front cover

The team also participated in more than 800 stakeholder meetings, presentations, and open houses to present the Olympic Transportation Plan.

"Every decision had an effect on an external agency or a department within our own organization," Senior Project Director Joyce Chang says. "The transportation plan was successful because it was the contribution of everybody...from the public and spectators who embraced traffic and commuter plans, VANOC and transportation partners (working together on an integrated transportation strategy) and all other federal and provincial agencies.

Transportation Management Centre

The ministry was a major participant in the development and implementation of the Transportation Management Centre deployed for the Games. Led by John Bodnarchuk, ministry employees staffed the facility 24/7. From this centre, located within VANOC's headquarters, the team closely coordinated operations with other agencies. (*See Olympic Team Mates, Page 4*)

"The primary benefit of a Transportation Management Centre was being able to share information, and when things got tough, we had a brainstorming of minds to ensure we had a coordinated response that optimized efficiency and minimized inconvenience to the public," says South Coast Regional Director Patrick Livolsi.

Project Manager David Mintak noted, "As I sit in the tight quarters of the Transportation Management Centre, at VANOC, pulling 12-hour shifts, I look around and consider most of these partners co-workers."

On Feb. 17, Public Service Deputy Minister Allan Seckel met and thanked some of the employees who contributed the Ministry of Transportation's Olympic effort. As most staff were in the field, he went to the Transportation Management Centre, to see employees in action with representatives from the other agencies.

Roads to the Olympics

The Sea-to-Sky Traffic Management team operated what became known as the "yellow stick road." Bright yellow posts were positioned on recently widened two-lane stretches. This created two lanes in the peak direction of traffic and one lane for the less-travelled direction. There was also a temporary one-kilometre road/rail travel lane, where trains and motor vehicles "shared the route" – at different times.

Incident rapid response units quickly dealt with vehicle accidents and stalls by setting up traffic control measures to maintain road capacity. Tow trucks which could pull light or commercial loads were pre-positioned to swiftly remove obstructions. VANOC's Integrated Security Unit and police in the area remarked on these highly efficient units.

Central to this work were Mainroad and Miller Capilano Highway Services which diligently kept highway traffic moving safely. Mainroad Pavement Marking did a particularly swift and skilful line painting job.

Not far from the Whistler area, the Cariboo District and maintenance contractor Interior Roads raised their level of communications and road service, to match that of the Sea-to-Sky corridor. Covering Highway 99 from Duffy Lake through to Lillooet, these people smoothed travel for motorists coming to and from the Olympic venues via the northwest.

Another key element of keeping traffic flowing was the Sea-to-Sky Checkpoint, operated by the CVSE staff, north of Squamish. From Feb. 11 to 28, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., they checked for vehicle permits, to filter out traffic that did not have parking in Whistler. Public communications worked well, and the average number of vehicles turned around was less than two per cent.

"CVSE folks were really great in dealing with motorists," says Sea-to-Sky Consultant Nasir Kurji. "We had very few turnarounds – the Games spirit was being adopted across the board."

Up to this time, the Passenger Transportation Branch was operating full-force, coordinating with taxi and bus service providers, and reviewing and issuing a multitude of temporary operating permits and licence authorities. Some 865 buses (new Canadian and United States bus operators) were issued licences. And, an earlier Passenger Transportation Board Regulatory Framework for taxi and limousine companies had provided temporary boundary relaxation for about 538 more taxis to operate in the City of Vancouver, during the Games. New licensing legislation for commercial passenger vehicles had also been introduced, and CVSE inspectors stepped up their compliance and enforcement duties to deal with the greater number of commercial passenger vehicles.

The OIC stated the 2010 Games had the best transportation system ever. Gilbert Felli, the OIC's Executive Director of Olympic Games told CTV news he was surprised by "the smooth running of the transportation."

Continued on Page 4...

Project Director John Bodnarchuk at the temporary one-kilometre road/rail travel lane at Porteau Cove.

Olympian Effort Leads to Transportation Triumph ...Continued from Page 3

The Sea-to-Sky Checkpoint in operation with Highways ADM Mike Proudfoot at far right.

Olympic Team Mates

Success was achieved by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure working closely with:

- VANOC
- City of Vancouver
- Resort Municipality of Whistler
- TransLink
- BC Transit
- Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit
- Transport Canada
- Municipalities of West Vancouver and Richmond
- Maintenance Contractors – Mainroad, Capilano Miller, Emil Anderson, Interior Roads

Snow Surprise – Ministry Excelled

Despite all the planning and efforts of so many dedicated individuals and agencies to make the Olympics a success, there was one surprise for VANOC... Unexpected warm weather meant inadequate snow for skiing and snowboard events at Cypress Mountain. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure was contacted for a remedy.

Lower Mainland Operations Managers Kurt Edmunds and Brian Atkins, and Project Director John Bodnarchuk masterminded and executed a plan to harvest snow from Allison Pass in Manning Park and the Coquihalla brake check and transport it to Cypress Mountain. In a feat that could only be described as "monumental," Chilliwack maintenance contractor Emil Anderson, joined the effort.

But it wasn't just any snow. The snow had to be clean and of a specific density. The ministry's avalanche group, along with Emil Anderson and VANOC staff, spent a number of days searching for the right white stuff. All the trucks had to be thoroughly cleaned to maintain the snow's pristine condition. From Feb. 1 to 15, an estimated 360 loads of snow totalling about 9,400 cubic metres were transported to the Olympic venue near West Vancouver.

Thus, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure provided the snow upon which Canada's first gold medal was won by mogul skier Alexandre Bilodeau!

Creating Camaraderie

The Olympic transportation work was enormously demanding, and several people remarked on the cohesion the challenge created.

South Coast Regional Director Patrick Livolsi says he was amazed at the "sheer exuberance" of the staff at the Transportation Management Centre. "When we are at the centre there is a keen interest to share and to assist others in ensuring we have an efficient and safe transportation system," he said. "Many people worked graveyard shifts and gave up time with spouses, children and friends to ensure that the Olympics were successful."

"All the hours that everyone dedicated to it, and no matter the lack of sleep or weather everyone always had a smile on their face from the early dark hours of the morning throughout the day and night," says Lower Mainland District Operations Manager Brian Atkins. "That included the entire group from the person on the road in the rain to people answering phones to the management staff. Three managers bunking up in a 20-ft. travel trailer so they could be on site in the event of any issues – that is dedicated!"

Some say the camaraderie between the maintenance contractors and ministry staff was brought to an even higher level throughout the

Continued on Page 5...

Olympian Effort Leads to Transportation Triumph ...Continued from Page 4

Olympics and has continued as a legacy. The new communication lines formed and strengthened with other agencies also remain.

Olympic Success

The challenges that the ministry encountered were not only traffic volumes, but were due to the dynamic nature of the Olympics such as revised event schedules, and Olympic bus routings. There were many hurdles and many changes. Olympic transportation excellence could not be achieved without the teamwork of ministry headquarters, regional and district operations, CVSE and the ministry's maintenance contractors.

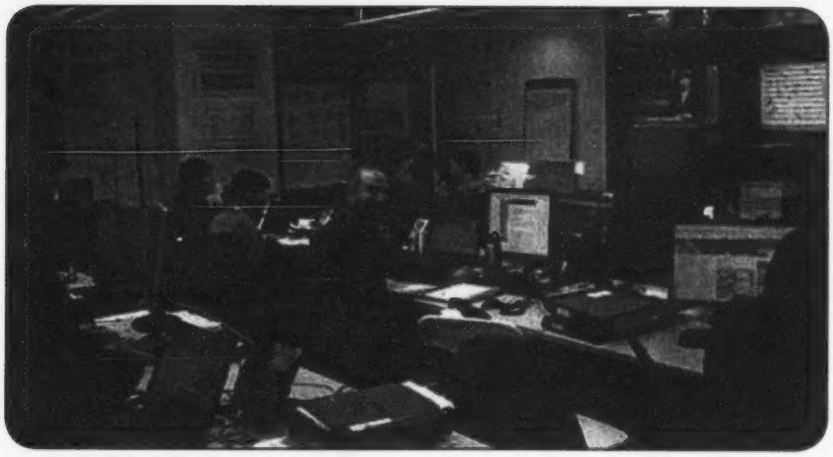
In the end, athletes and visitors alike were shown true Canadian hospitality, with transportation planning and management being integral to the success. VANOC Director of Transportation Planning Sveto Plasvic told ministry employees, "Your professionalism has all along been a glue that cemented our Olympic and Paralympic Transportation Team, holding the rest of us to the highest standards of planning and delivery. ...you were always there, no matter what, competent and well prepared. Your operational planning, from the outset, has been methodical, organized and complete. Your delivery... has been timely and to the promised standard."

The Olympics had a global viewing audience – it was unprecedented opportunity to showcase and market British Columbia to the world. "The whole world was watching and you showed them how it's done," says Mike Proudfoot.

"Sure, Canada's hockey teams deserved their medals, but the teamwork shown by you in supporting each other throughout this amazing adventure is unparalleled and as tight as any Olympic team can be." ♦

The ministry handled collection and transportation of pristine snow from Allison Pass to Cypress Mountain.

Yellow marker posts and traffic counter flow signs on the three-lane "yellow stick highway."



Patrick Livolsi exhibits some of the "sheer exuberance" he saw at the Transportation Management Centre.

Our Olympic Accomplishments

The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure was a major partner with VANOC in the delivery of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Game, and was the lead agency responsible for:

- Burrard Crossings Traffic Management
- Lions Gate Bridge and approaches
- Second Narrows Ironworkers Bridge and approaches (Highway 1 and Cassiar)
- Highway 99 Traffic Management
- Sea-to-Sky Highway between Horseshoe Bay and Function Junction
- Highway 99 in Whistler from Function Junction to Lorimer Road
- Highway Maintenance Management
- Highway Incident Management
- Contingency Planning for highway routes critical to the Games
- Taxi, limousine and bus legislation, policies and licensing
- Planning and implementation of the Transportation Management Centre
- Sea-to-Sky Roadcheck
- Transportation Demand Management Measure
- Route planning
- Traffic modelling
- Public communications
- Special events approvals
- Background engineering
- Torch Relay traffic management

Pacific Gateway Olympic Hosting by the Numbers

Submitted by Kristie Kristofferson, Public Affairs Officer

The 2010 Winter Olympics provided a golden opportunity to showcase Canada's Pacific Gateway to international companies and encourage them to choose British Columbia for trade, investment and growing their business.

Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Shirley Bond, along with other government and industry Pacific Gateway Executive Committee (PGEC) partners, invited some of the biggest international companies from the shipping, mining and airline industries, to meet during the Olympics from Feb. 12 to 26.

The meetings and receptions provided an opportunity for current and potential customers to meet with Pacific Gateway partners, establish and build on relationships, and market British Columbia's transportation network and supply chain as the preferred gateway for international trade and goods movement.

Here's how the Pacific Gateway business hosting activities finished by the numbers:

7 Airport Pick-ups: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff were kept busy travelling to Vancouver International Airport (YVR) to greet 18 VIP guests, including representatives from Korean Airlines, Bilfinger Berger Multi Service Group, Virgin Atlantic Airways, United Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Singapore Airlines, and container shippers Hapag-Lloyd Canada.

6 Executive Roundtable Meetings: Minister Bond, Deputy Minister Peter Milburn, Chief Operating Officer Dave Byng and PGEC members, along with other provincial government representatives, hosted more than 100 guests at roundtable business meetings with Pohang Iron and Steel Company (POSCO) Canada Ltd., China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO) Canada, BHP Billiton, Itochu International, Hapag-Lloyd Canada and Maersk Canada.

5 Ministerial one-on-one meetings: Minister Bond met individually with leaders of key international companies.

4 YVR meetings and tours: Pacific Gateway partner the Vancouver Airport Authority, Dave Byng, Pacific Gateway staff and other provincial representatives conducted individual business meetings and airport tours for approximately 30 people, including representatives from Air China, United Airlines, Singapore Airlines and China Eastern Airlines.

3 Networking Receptions: PGEC partners the Vancouver Airport Authority and CN Railway each sponsored a networking reception at the British Columbia/Canada Pavilion in the Vancouver Art Gallery at Robson Square, and CP Railway sponsored a Pacific Gateway Reception at their CP Spirit House in Vancouver. More than 400 guests were hosted at these events.

2 Major airline media events: Pacific Gateway Public Affairs staff worked with Minister Bond's office and partner YVR to arrange airline media events with Emirates Airline

Continued on Page 7...

Grace Lin, Yongmei Chen, Michele Pace, Theresa Lumsdon, Gloria Valle and Linda Rogers prepare to host the YVR-sponsored Pacific Gateway reception at the British Columbia-Canada Pavilion, located in the Vancouver Art Gallery in Robson Square.

Pacific Gateway Olympic Hosting by the Numbers ...Continued from Page 6

and Air China, at the B.C. International Media Centre in Robson Square. Emirates released an independent study supporting their quest for increased service, and Air China announced three more flights per week between Vancouver and Beijing. Both events were well attended by local, national and international media.

1 Gold medal performance by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Pacific Gateway Branch! These exciting events could not have succeeded without the months of hard work, dedication and long hours of Pacific Gateway Branch staff and Manager of Client Relations Gloria Valle, all of whom ensured the hosting program was a success. The event planning, logistics and hosting was done by this group. This small, dynamic team managed to achieve big wins at their business-hosting events.

The ministry team on the ground in Vancouver included Peter Milburn, Dave Byng and Pacific Gateway branch staff Michele Pace, Grace Lin, Linda Rogers and Yongmei Chen, along with Theresa Lumsdon of the Public Affairs Bureau, and Gloria Valle.

The Victoria support team included Pacific Gateway employees Rachelle Baum and Gillian Moxham, and Public Affairs Bureau staffer Kristie Kristofferson.

For more photos and information visit www.th.gov.bc.ca/PacificGateway/index.htm and click on "2010 Olympic Business Hosting" under the "Events" tab at the bottom of the menu bar. ♦

Deputy Minister Peter Milburn greets Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Atlantic Airways as he arrives at Vancouver International Airport, on Feb. 17.

Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Shirley Bond and Air China Canada General Manager Zhigang He enjoy the CP Railway-sponsored networking event, at the CP Spirit House, in Vancouver.

China Eastern Airlines VP Jiangbo Liu with Chief Operating Officer Dave Byng at Vancouver International Airport.

Torch (Speedily) Relayed with a Glowing Heart

Submitted by Nick Leatham, Commercial Transport Inspector

This story started about a year ago. I was tracking my fitness online through the public service website under the BC Public Service Winter Games. Like our recent ministry TransAction fitness challenge, one competes in 12 Olympic sports and gets points from time spent getting exercise going toward a medal for the selected sport. One's points correspond to either a bronze, silver or gold medal. Once you receive enough points, you can redeem them for exercise items in the points catalogue.

Anyway, needless to say, I had not read much into this when I signed up. My wife was signed up already, so I just clicked "yes" to everything and signed up. I hadn't seen the part where it said that there was a chance to be chosen to actually carry the Olympic Torch.

The Public Service had 10 spots for employees to carry the torch. I was busy tracking my fitness in February 2009 when I received an e-mail stating that there was a spot reserved for me as a Torchbearer in the Torch Relay. They said to get back to them within two days to secure the spot.

Well, working shift-work at the Prince George Inspection Station this happened to fall in my days off. When I got back to work two days after they wanted a reply, and saw the e-mail, I sent one back almost right away after questioning my wife if she had heard of any e-mails like this. I was in disbelief, more so because I had no idea that I could be chosen the way I did. I had said if it wasn't too late I would do it. They then sent me an e-mail back saying the spot was mine and they would contact me later.

I then put it on the back burner. A little while later they sent me another e-mail with more info. I forwarded this e-mail to my wife and she flipped out with excitement. She phoned me right away and asked me why I hadn't said anything earlier. I said that I had but she assured me I hadn't. Anyway she was ecstatic and being one not to get excited too quickly I laid in wait.

I told my family and a few friends and just left it at that, just in case something happened and I didn't get to do it. An e-mail was sent out by Greg Gilks informing CVSE that I had been chosen and with that I was pretty confident that it was a for sure thing.

So months went by and then finally I was sent an e-mail with updates. Another e-mail came to sign my life away and give my uniform size and how fast I would be carrying the torch.

Nick Leatham carried the Olympic Torch in Prince George.

Later my route came. Lucky enough, it was in my home town. The segment one runs is only around 300 metres long. My uniform came a few weeks before the run, a little too big because I thought it might be way colder than it was, and I would need to have lots of clothes underneath.

Roughly a dozen of us torchbearers met at the CN Centre in Prince George at 4:15 p.m., Jan. 29, We checked in and went through all the logistics. We then hopped on the bus which took us to our drop off points.

My run was at 6:18 p.m. from the Legion on 7th Avenue to the last Arch at the Civic Centre. When you get dropped off you have some time to get pictures taken and talk to the people spectating.

Then the fancy Coca-Cola and Royal Bank of Canada trucks came by playing music and announcing over the loudspeaker to cheer for the runner, giving the runner's name and where they were from. Corporate representatives were also handing out flags, trinkets and bottles of soft drinks.

The RCMP came through with the rolling road block. Then an RCMP member on a bike pedalled up and tested the torch's fuel system. We went through some last minute instructions and waited for the runner carrying the lit torch to come nearby. The officer then turned on my torch and I stood out in the centre of the road and waited for runner #104 to come and ignite my torch.

Once lit, I started to run my course waving and cheering as I went. I was greeted by many familiar "transportation faces" and appreciated their support as well as my family and friends.

I got caught up in the moment and was running a little too quickly and one of my four RCMP security runners asked me to slow down because I was catching up to the bus in front of me.

Immediately after, I was asked to stop completely to get back on schedule. I continued to run and then lit torch #106 and they went on their way. After a smooch from my wife, I got on the bus to the main celebration at the CN Centre.

As we got off the bus, I received the box with the carrying case for the torch that the Public Service graciously purchased for me. We then mingled with the crowd and provided photo opportunities for people that were excited about the experience so that kids and parents alike could hold, touch and photograph the torch.

I was reunited with my family and we watched the last runner bring the torch in and light the cauldron. It was great to be a part of the group of 12,000 runners carrying the torch across the country.

I am proud to be a Canadian and showcase that to the community, province, country and world! I want to thank the Public Service for the amazing opportunity I was given to represent The Best Place On Earth. ♦

Torch Generates Excitement in West Kootenay Communities

Submitted by Darrell Gunn, A/Area Manager

Residents of tiny Christina Lake cheer on the Olympic Torch.

As part of my job, I had the pleasure to be in the presence of the Olympic torch during part of its journey through the Kootenay-Boundary region, and I must say it was quite an interesting experience.

Starting off early in the morning, I didn't have a clue what to expect as I had heard of protests in some communities and great receptions in others. There was an array of different communities with a total of 18 stops along the way varying from larger places such as Trail, to small stops, such as Shoreacres that you would've missed if you blinked.

Although the large events in communities like Trail and Castlegar were quite impressive and entertaining, it was the small stops that I found the most intriguing. The amount of support and excitement for the torch relay in these small communities surpassed any expectation that I had at the beginning of the day.

For instance, I arrived about an hour before the torch in the community of Christina Lake, with a population of 1,435 permanent residents, and was greeted by hundreds of excited people. Everyone was mingling outside one of the local gas stations, while enjoying a free hot dog or bowl of chilli that was supplied by a local community group. Although they didn't have a big stage with music, like at the larger events, the people seemed to be even more energized.

When the torch finally did come, it was like a homecoming for a hometown hero. The highway was lined with community members cheering at the top of their lungs, and before you knew it, the torch was gone on its way to Grand Forks. The aftermath was a scattering of the crowd, with people lining up to get their picture taken with a runner and the torch, as if they were a celebrity.

It was at this point that I realized, and not to sound too much like the Grinch, that perhaps the torch relay was much more than the longest torch relay in history, perhaps it meant a little bit more. Although these communities were hundreds of kilometres away from Vancouver, they had the same excitement that was seen on television during the Olympics. Some might say the torch relay was an unnecessary expense, but they clearly didn't see what it meant to the communities when a piece of the Olympics was brought to their little corner of the province. ♦

Torch Reaches Highest Ground

Submitted by Cliff Razzo, Area Manager

On Day 86 of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, the torch reached its zenith atop Kootenay Pass Summit. Ministry staff were there to ensure safe passage for the torch bearers and smooth traffic flow on Highway 3. ♦

The Olympic flame is transferred at the snowy summit of Kootenay Pass – at 1,774 metres the highest elevation of the cross-Canada relay.

Avalanche Technicians Robb Andersen and Andre Lapointe, and Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association-certified Aquillo, welcomed the torch relay to Kootenay Pass.

Olympic Competitors Prepare at Mount Washington

Submitted by Rod Mochizuki, Area Manager

Mt. Washington Alpine Resort had a "flurry of activity" during February 2010, as 15 countries brought more than 33 teams and 350 athletes there, to prepare for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Many teams lived on the mountain and a few stayed in the Comox Valley. Take Sweden for example. They brought two chefs to cook for their Cross-Country, Biathlon, Freestyle Ski, Ski Cross, Snowboard Race, Woman's Hockey and Paralympic Teams that were here for training! When I asked the Swedish Sledge Hockey Manager why Sweden had adopted the Comox Valley he said, "The valley's weather, scenery and people are just like home."

It was amazing, as one could watch the athletes shoot at the Biathlon range, ride up the chairlift with athletes, ski on the same runs as the athletes, and participate in many media events for the athletes where there may be...10 to 20 people in the crowd!

That wasn't the only "flurry of activity." Maintenance Contractor Emcon Services did an admirable job of keeping the Mt. Washington ski hill road open during record snowfalls. When the Paralympic athletes left for the games, the ski resort had a 490-centimetre mid-mountain base – the thickest base in North America and second deepest in the world!

"Kwame the Snow Leopard" participated in many Olympic promotion events in the Comox Valley.

As it turned out, the snow we received was exactly the same snow conditions the athletes endured at the Olympics.

The most famous of the athletes was "Kwame the Snow Leopard" from Ghana, who participated in the Men's Slalom. He drew the biggest crowds on the mountain. There were definitely more than 20 people around to see him, and he was gracious enough to participate in many Olympic promotion events in the Comox Valley.

The Comox Valley was host to a sold-out Women's Exhibition Hockey Game between China and Sweden, and the day before, the public was able to watch the Swedish women practice. A Swedish player commented, "Five hundred spectators to watch a practice! We don't see that many at a game at home in Sweden."

The women's practice and game was such a success, the Swedish Sledge Hockey team had three days of open practices as they prepared for their Olympic adventure. Wow! Those players are athletes – if you didn't see a sledge hockey game in person, you can't appreciate the skill these guys have!

The final count was 49 Olympic and Paralympic medals, 13 gold, 14 silver and 22 bronze! Congratulations to the athletes! The Comox Valley definitely caught the Olympic Fever! ♦

Traffic Volumes Reflect Olympic Highlights

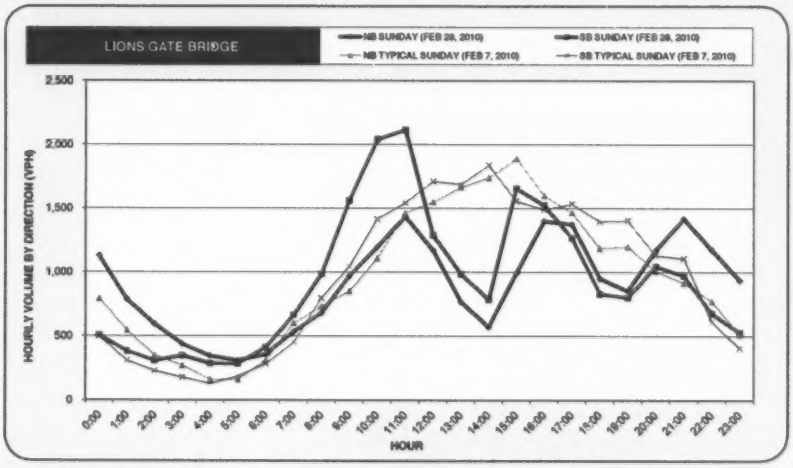
Submitted by Henry Lew, A/Manager, Traffic Engineering

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has permanent traffic counters throughout Metro Vancouver which monitor and record traffic volumes 24 hours a day. Traffic volumes from a number of these count sites were downloaded, analyzed and reported on a daily basis to support traffic management efforts during the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics.

The last day of Olympic events, like the men's gold medal hockey game (12:15 to 2:45 p.m.), and the closing ceremonies (5:30 p.m. start), impacted traffic volumes on the Lions Gate Bridge. There was a significant increase in southbound traffic destined toward downtown Vancouver just prior to the hockey game and dramatically lower volumes in both directions during the two events. A typical Sunday in early February is shown below for comparison.

Daily traffic reports were provided by the Traffic Engineering Section at South Coast Region. The Traffic Engineering Section staff are responsible for traffic signal warrants, design of traffic signals, signage and pavement markings, speed studies, safety reviews, traffic impact reviews and provision of engineering support to numerous infrastructure projects in South Coast Region. Many of the regional traffic issues are unique due to the significant urbanization, population growth and traffic congestion found here.

The Traffic Engineering Section currently consists of Amy Choh (P. Eng.), Henry Lew (P. Eng.), Kenedee Ludwar (P. Eng.), Karamjeet Deogan (EIT) and Banafsheh Rahmani (EIT). For more information about traffic volumes during the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics, please contact Henry Lew, A/Manager, Traffic Engineering at (604) 660-4989. ♦



During the final day of the Olympics, traffic volumes were shaped by the men's gold medal hockey game, and the closing ceremonies. Here, they are compared against a typical Sunday.

Creating Soft Landings for Aerial Athletes

Erin Moxon, Project Manager, Climate Action Program

I volunteered for nine days during the Olympics, at the Cypress Mountain aerials venue. I had volunteered in 2001 in Fernie, B.C., for a World Cup Freestyle event, and I suppose VANOC figured I was a pro (which I can assure you wasn't the case!)

Upon meeting my fellow volunteers, I discovered most had previously volunteered at several Freestyle events. While there is certainly a science associated with mounting an aerials event (sharpened shovels, snow sculpting tools, precise jump measurements, fertilizer, fire extinguishers, dry ice, snow groomers and strange lingo) I found it wasn't rocket science and I fit in quite nicely.

Speaking of rockets, that's a good way to describe the aerial athletes as they hurtled into the air off the jumps, mastering flips and twists before landing on their feet. I was chosen to be a "stepper," meaning that between shovelling and pine bough cutting stints, I wore my skis while stepping down the landing, to smooth out the slope after athletes left sizeable landing divots in the snow. Here are a few interesting tidbits I learned:

- Athletes travel at 65 km/hr into the jumps.
- The jumps are about 12 feet high and made of solid ice (thanks to cooling tubes built into the jumps that are filled with dry ice every night). Four teams were given responsibility to build the jumps, and each jump's geometry was slightly different. It took hours of sculpting and grooming every day to prepare the jumps.
- The landing slope is at 40 degrees – I can assure you, that's steep!
- The athletes fall an equivalent of three to four storeys from the height of their jump to their landing.
- The snow on the landing isn't dirty – it's covered in green pine boughs to help twisting athletes differentiate between the white ground and the white, cloudy sky.
- Men jumpers make much bigger landing divots than the women jumpers. Volunteers repair the landing zone after each jump by quickly shovelling new snow in and stepping on it with their skis.
- One of the U.S. coaches was a Canadian who grew up a few blocks from where I grew up in Toronto (at the "centre of the universe," we joked).
- One of the Chinese coaches was also a Canadian.
- Many of the jumpers don't ski very well. Their background is in trampoline and gymnastics.
- It takes three hours to prepare the aerials site before jumping can proceed. Volunteers "chop" the entire landing zone down three feet with sharpened shovels, fluffing up the snow to ensure it's very soft in case athletes land incorrectly. It's gruelling work that requires 30 volunteers.

It was a wonderful, exhausting experience and a thrill to be part of the Olympics. Go, Canada, go! ♦

Erin Moxon volunteered at the Olympic aerials venue for nine days.

Employees Smooth Passage, Cheer for Torch

Submitted by Tara Knight,
District Development Technician

Area Managers Peter Gooch, Terry Jones and Ed Dodds were en route to ensure safe travel for the Olympic Torch Relay, when it came through Salmon Arm on Jan. 27. Development Approvals staff ensured the ministry was represented with good spirit as they cheered on the torch. ♦

Development approvals staff Elizabeth Keam, Tara Knight and Allison Bates with ICBC employee Norma Lavictoire.

Volunteers Test Athletes, Transport Spectators

Submitted by Mary-Ethel Audley, Manager of Policy and Legislation, and Tammy Donison, Manager, Financial Services

Two of us from Transportation Planning and Policy volunteered for the Olympics – a once in a lifetime role that we feel honoured to have played. We would like to thank our employer for encouraging and supporting this opportunity. We are also grateful to the many co-workers and peers who stayed behind to keep the office going, and of course, to family and friends for all their support.

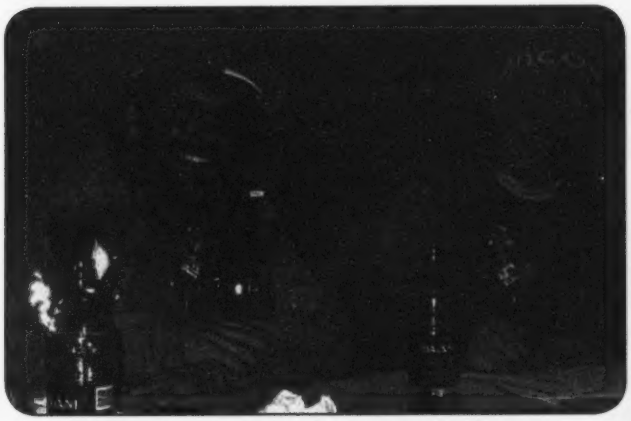
Mary-Ethel Audley: Hard to believe that the Olympics are over already, and we have been back at work now for weeks! The experience was full immersion in Winter Olympics! I lived in Whistler, went to venues, met lots of athletes from around the world, visited Canada and Austria Houses and watched the events on my time off.

I was a volunteer chaperone on the Anti-Doping Team at Whistler Medal Plaza, and my journey started in July 2008 with training, just to qualify as a volunteer. The Anti-Doping Team started well before the games and was at the Athlete's Village testing competitors in the weeks leading up to the Feb. 12 starting date. The teams had broad international representation, and I now have friends to visit around the world!

Tammy Donison: I was a volunteer at Cypress Mountain with Team Transportation. What an experience! I started at the beginning of February when they were still shipping in snow. It was a major construction zone, with big trucks hauling snow to the helicopters, which in turn, were hauling it up the mountain. I was amazed by the "buzz" of activity going on all around and even more amazed to watch as the mountain quickly "morphed" into an Olympic sports venue!

We successfully had an accident-free venue. At times we moved more than 9,000 spectators off the mountain within 90 minutes after competition ended (working with 150 plus bus systems). Our leadership team worked long hours, often coming in after three hours of sleep, or sometimes sleeping on the couch in the office when it was too late to go home. All these different people, from vastly different backgrounds, pulled together to do whatever needed to be done. We had our challenges, most certainly, but I personally only witnessed the group mindset of "What do we need to do to get it better?"

Being there and experiencing the crowd's energy after a Canadian gold is priceless and amazing – something that I definitely hope to experience again in my lifetime! ♦

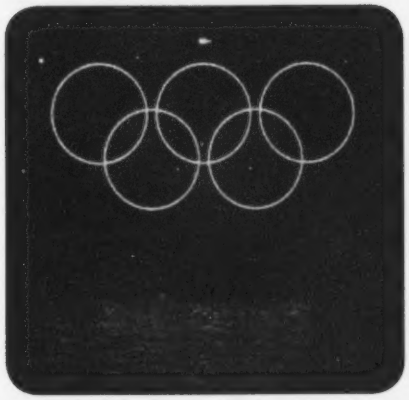


Tammy Donison (right) at work with Venue Transportation Manager Klaus.

Alex Bilodeau won Canada'a first gold medal, skiing on snow shipped to Cypress Mountain by the ministry. He is pictured here, at Robson Square.

Olympic mascot Quatchi and Mary-Ethel Audley share a joyful moment.

Cathy Grossmith takes a ride on the zip line.



The Olympic Rings put on a colourful light show.

Kelly Pender at his own "press conference" about a new sport — Olympic Couch Surfing. Accommodations were challenging for many volunteers.

Hosting at Canada Hockey Place

Submitted by Robert McDermid, CVSE Portable Inspector

The day after Premier Gordon Campbell announced that provincial civil servants could take part in the 21st Winter Olympics as volunteers, I applied for a position.

As luck would have it, I was selected for a position at Canada Hockey Place. I worked for Event Services, as a Host. The work was multi-faceted and included acting as an usher, a spectator marshal, ticket and accreditation scanner, crowd control person, security officer, and public relations officer. I worked 13 shifts out of the 17 days, for long hours, and encountered all weather conditions. Nine of my shifts were outside, leaving only four opportunities to see some hockey.

My very first assignment was substituting for a Canadian athlete in the Parade of Athletes for the Opening Ceremonies dress rehearsal. What a moment it was to enter the stadium with thousands of screaming fans! After that I was able to watch the remainder of this practice session. The next night I was in charge of marshalling athletes in the actual Opening Ceremonies.

I said "Hello" to many famous people, including Wayne Gretzky, Donald Sutherland, Bryan Adams, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, Former Premier Glen Clark, Lieutenant Governor Steven Point, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, Peter Forsberg, Pavol Demitra, Pat Quinn, and Scotty Bowman to name a few.

Games, of which I saw parts, included the Canadian women's drubbing of the Slovakians, 18-0, on Feb. 13. On Feb. 16, I saw the Canadian men's team beat Norway 8-0. The next game which I saw bits of was when Canada lost to the U.S., 5-3, on Feb. 21.

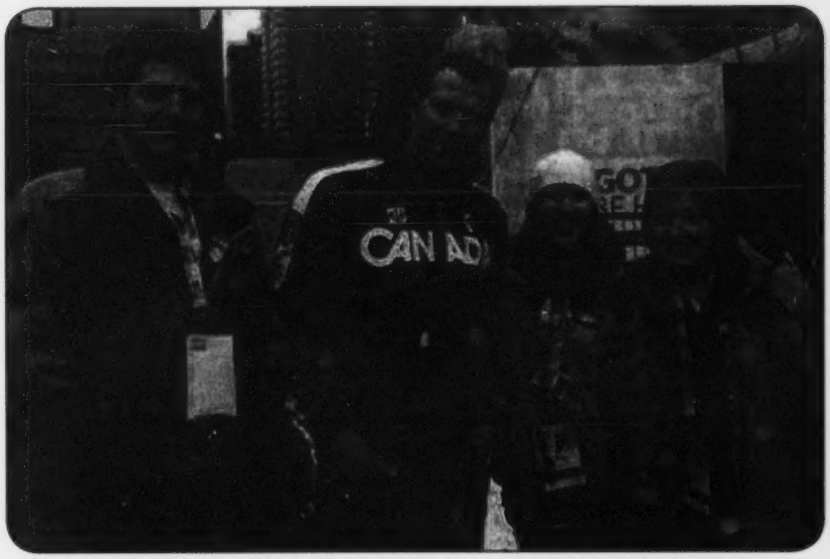
On Feb 28, I was at the gold medal game, working the doors at Gate 7. With about 15 minutes left in the third period, a very nice manager brought me to the media booth in the lower bowl, and assigned me there until the end of the game!

What a dramatic finish, and a glorious moment when Sidney Crosby scored in overtime to win gold for Canada! This is the stuff that hockey legends are made of! This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity which I will never forget. ♦

Robert McDermid at the gold medal men's hockey game between Canada and the U.S., on the last day of the Olympics.

Hosting and Hockey Stars with the Games Secretariat

Submitted by Nick Wright, Community Relations Officer



Nick Wright with Team Canada goaltender Martin Brodeur, and other Brodeur fans, in downtown Vancouver.

It's really tough to describe how exciting it was to be in downtown Vancouver during the Olympics, especially at Robson Square.

During my temporary assignment with the Olympic Games Secretariat, I experienced some of the best the city had to offer. Robson Square was where everyone wanted to be, and since it was already in my backyard, I went there every chance I got.

I spent three weeks as a host at the BC Showcase. The other hosts and I helped welcome hundreds of business, community and government groups, and we helped put on dozens of successful events. When things were slower, which wasn't often, we watched the athletes, street performers and thousands of people who passed by. I know I made a lot of new friends during those three weeks.

On one of my first days there, the torch relay came through. Hundreds of people came to watch 91-year-old Vancouver bandleader Dal Richards take his turn with the torch on the Robson Square zamboni. Every few hours there was something new to see and usually hundreds of people to watch it.

One morning, I was barely awake and walking down the stairs on my way to an early event...I looked up and saw the Stanley Cup! How many jobs provide that opportunity? It was 6:30 a.m. in the morning and we're gathered around the Stanley Cup, looking for coffee.

I've been a goalie since I was about nine years old, and during my last week at the Olympics, I met one of my idols, Martin Brodeur, in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery. And it wasn't just him – I was fortunate enough to meet many other local and national celebrities while I was there.

I have so many great stories from my time at Robson Square, and doing shift work spared me a few ugly early mornings, allowing me to see half a dozen free shows and play a few late hockey games. The highlight for me (besides the Opening Ceremonies and the gold medal in men's hockey) was a free Trews concert on Granville Island. Even after hours of waiting in line, their show at the Backstage Lounge/Atlantic Canada House blew me away. Canada had won their game earlier that night so everyone was celebrating, including me. I was singing along to nearly every song they played.

Thousands of people showed up to watch this show, and I was one of only a couple hundred people who got in.

I am very lucky that I was able to do as much as I did, and I owe a lot of that to my time with the Olympic Games Secretariat. ♦

Fireworks in Robson Square.

Hospitality Hosting in Lively Robson Square

Submitted by Dave Retzer, Project Information Officer

During the month of February, I had the opportunity to go to Vancouver and work as a hospitality host at the Robson Square celebration site during the Olympics. The main tasks of my position were to answer questions about the daily activities on site, hand out pins and other free stuff, control crowds and facilitate a fun "Canadian experience." When I arrived my expectations were greatly surpassed as we received 75,000 to 100,000 visitors every day!

There were three stages for performances throughout Robson Square with multiple daily shows. Some of the other free attractions included a mascot ice show three times per day, a laser-pyrotechnics show twice a night, a 170-metre zip line running across Robson Street and a bunch of tents where people could play games or get souvenirs. On our big outdoor screens we showed Olympic events and there were huge crowds for the hockey games. But the most popular attraction by far was the zip line. The average line-up was between six and eight hours but most people agreed that it was worth the wait. Visitors really enjoyed getting free pins and I actually got quite caught up in the "sport" of pin trading myself. People of all ages were collecting pins and displaying them on their clothes or around their necks to trade. I found pin trading to be the best way to meet and interact with visitors and by the end of my stay I had quite a collection.

A view of Robson Square, taken by Dave Retzer, from the zip line.

There was also an international media centre in Robson Square, and as a result I got to see a number of Olympic medalists, so I always had my camera handy. My two most memorable experiences were riding the zip line over Robson Square at night and watching the hockey games on the outdoor screen. On my final day there I was lucky enough to be positioned in the crowd right in front of the big screen for the gold medal match. The energy and excitement was unreal. The Canadian pride I saw every day was incredible and being part of the Olympic experience in Vancouver is something I'll never forget. ♦

Olympic caldron at night.

Nancy Merston, Tracy Houser and Pam Merkley at the October launch of the Torch Relay – the start of the Olympic festivities.

Rabbit Hole or Yellow Brick Road?

Submitted by Tracy Houser, Project Manager, Human Resources

For nearly four months I had the privilege of working with an amazing team of people at the British Columbia Pavilion and it now seems like a dream. Located at the top of the Vancouver Art Gallery, we had the opportunity to share the best of B.C. with the world! Law clerks, investigation officers, executive assistants, graphic designers, directors, project managers, and mothers of Olympians – we came from many backgrounds but we quickly formed a strong team! During the course of 17 days of the Olympics and 10 days of the Paralympics we served a total of 150,000 guests.

The hours were long, days off almost non-existent, meals were forgotten, and deadlines were fierce. Multi-tasking took on a whole new meaning for me. Teambuilding was an essential skill and lines of communication became lifelines to success. I am not sure if I was Alice in Wonderland (doing strange things like going to bed with my Blackberry on my pillow), or if I landed in Oz (happy people everywhere).

Everyone who witnessed the 2010 Olympic Winter Games – whether via television or newspaper coverage, stories from friends and neighbours or first hand in the middle of the madness – will take away unique memories and highlights of an exhilarating experience!

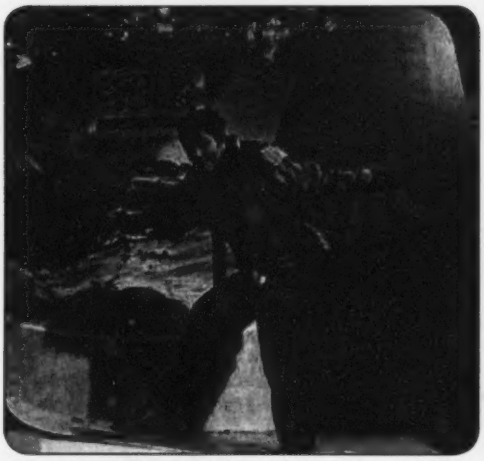
I am happily back in Victoria with the Human Resources Branch of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (not in Vancouver anymore Toto). While the edges of my memories will blur with time, the happy grins of children, adults, athletes, visitors, locals, dignitaries, and all the Robson Square staff will remain etched always.

People enjoy the blossoming cherry trees and sunshine.

I will also remember....

1. My original plan had been to "get out of Dodge" during the Games in order to avoid the crowds and mayhem
2. Making the conscious choice to apply for a position that would be located in the heart of the action
3. Watching gymnasts doing back flips on a outdoor trampoline while wearing downhill skills
4. Listening to the Canadian Tenors sing to a room of 100 people
5. Hearing thousands of people in Robson Square go silent as if someone pushed a mute button on the remote control when the U.S. men's hockey team scored a goal to tie the game with 24 seconds left in the third period
6. Standing in the sunshine under a cherry tree in full bloom while eating ice cream and reading about emergency snow measures on the mountain
7. Crying when Joannie Rochette stepped onto the ice for her final skate of the competition
8. Laughing when my friend and I took the wrong bus en route to a sledge hockey game (we made it in time to see the first goal though)
9. Holding my breath as I stepped off the zip line platform (and then screaming all the way down!)
10. Being amazed at the sea of red and white that Canadians wore with pride every single day
11. Feeling overwhelmed with certainty that I wouldn't trade the experience for anything!

Thanks for the opportunity! ♦



As Tracy Houser demonstrates, every day there was something exciting happening in Robson Square.

Ski acrobatics on a trampoline – a sight not to be forgotten by visitors to Robson Square.

You GOTTA Be Here at the Media Centre

Submitted by Cathy Grossmith, Sr. Manager Planning and Client Services

Cathy Grossmith (left of Premier Gordon Campbell) with the Premier and some of the other Olympic Media Centre staff.

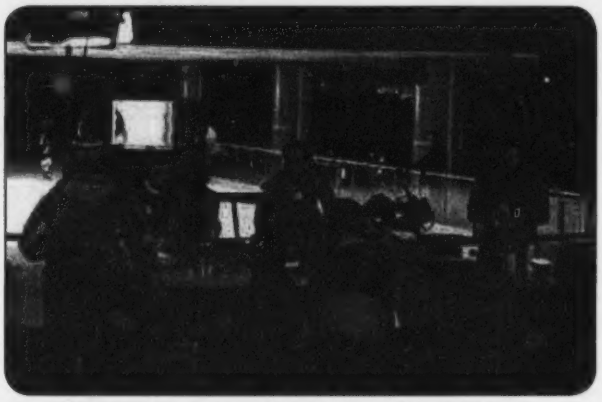
From Jan. 11 to Feb. 28, I was very lucky to work from the best place on earth – Robson Square – well at least during the 2010 Winter Olympics. We were very busy getting ready to welcome the world to Vancouver and specifically to the BC Media Centre. In the beginning, it was hectic organizing staff for a 24/7 operation, uniforms and training, and getting schedules sorted.

This state-of-the-art Media Centre was a full-service broadcasting facility covering 2,600 square metres. As many as 400 newspapers, 3,000 journalists, with more than 24 news agencies and television broadcasters, including ESPN, ABC, Fox News, Eurovision, Associated Press TV, British Press Association and several Asian news agencies, called the BC Media Centre home.

My first day had me racing from the airport to arrive 10 minutes before Premier Gordon Campbell was at the Media Centre, for the official opening. After the opening (and before he tested the zip line) he came around to thank volunteers and have a picture taken with us. I tried to hide in the back but the photographer said he couldn't see me, so Premier Campbell came around and pulled me up beside him. Wonderful, that after the race from the airport, lugging my (heavy) suitcase on the Canada Line and down the stairs to the Media Centre (we were underground with no easy elevator access) I was a mess. I'm sure I made a great impression.

One of my favourite memories is the Russian journalist I met. He was huge – seemed about seven feet tall to me – long black coat, black pants and peasant shirt with a large silver cross. So now you have the picture... He looms over me asking to trade one of my pins for a Russian pin, which I was happy to do. I mentioned that my family was from Odessa, Russia, and that made him scuttle closer (six inches away – a different cultural concept of personal space) and proceed to tell me how much better Russians are than Canadians. I didn't argue with him. Anyway I received my Russian pin, a motif of Stalin with gold paint that rubs off if you touch it too much. Not trading that one!

Robson Square was a blast – free ice skating, free zip line, television screens and the side of the Sears building serving as a screen for showing Olympic events. (Can you imagine the hockey games – yikes!). There was also a showcase and commerce centre that were worth a visit.



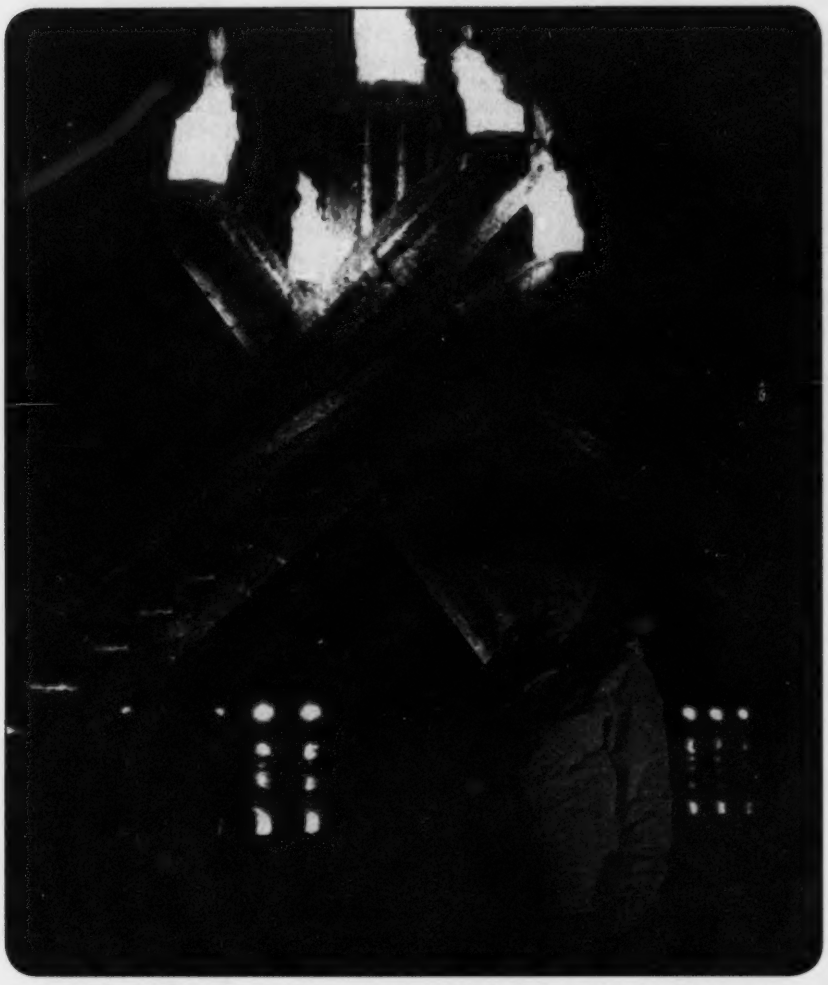
CTV Early Morning newscast from Robson Square, with the GE Ice Plaza in the background.

I missed my family, sometimes missed work (well, only slightly) but was very grateful for the experience.
A special thank you to my family (Dave, James and Michelle) and work (Bob Buckingham and Nancy Bain) for letting me take advantage of this opportunity. ♦

Mike Proudfoot (far left) at the Integrated Transportation Plan press conference.

My Vancouver 2010 Olympic Experience

Submitted by Doreen McAllister, CVSE Supervisor



Doreen McAllister's volunteer accreditation brought her up close to media personalities and the Olympic Torch.

On Jan. 5, 2009, I received an email that said I was going to be part of Team2010 as a volunteer! All I knew was that I was to show up at the appointed time and date for the interview and Team2010 orientation.

On Aug. 31, 2009, I received an email saying that I was going to be a "Transportation Desk Attendant at the Main Media Centre"! Cool, what did that mean? Because I live in Fort Nelson, I was unable to go to the venue-specific training. However, my contact, Kirsten sent me a package in the mail with all I'd need to know.

I phoned my brother, who lives in Port Coquitlam, and asked for a bed. I still didn't know my work schedule but I knew I'd be volunteering at Vancouver 2010! On October 28, 2009, I received my work schedule. I phoned the airline to get my plane ticket. I knew my transportation on BC Transit once I got my accreditation would be free, so my only real cost was the airplane ticket. Whew!

I finally arrived Jan. 27, 2010, in Vancouver. My accreditation and uniform appointment was for the following day and my first shift was Jan. 31. I worked almost every day from Jan. 31 to Feb. 14.

My job was to help the print and broadcast media get from the airport to their hotels, to the Main Media Centre (MMC), and to all of the venues.

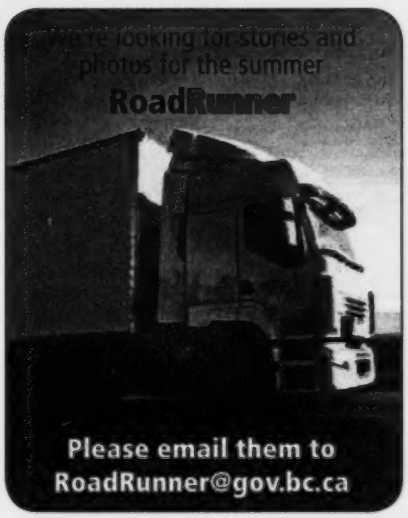
VANOC needed people to attend the dress rehearsal for the opening ceremony. So, they invited all of the VANOC volunteers to attend! There were a few secrets that they didn't show us at the rehearsal. But even with that, it was amazing! I know those that saw the real show on Feb. 12 were not disappointed.

The MMC was at Canada Place and the Vancouver Convention Centre. It was always busy. There were over 10,000 media representatives in Vancouver and Whistler, and most were at the MMC at some point. I didn't see too many famous people but I did see Darren from TSN Sport Centre and Matt Laurer held the door for me once.

On the evening of Feb. 12, I was working at the MMC watching the opening ceremonies. They were amazing. Then Mr. (Wayne) Gretzky left BC Place Stadium and started his little drive through town and suddenly there were thousands of people outside the MMC! The torch was lit, right beside where I was working. Wow – that was amazing! My accreditation allowed me to walk right up to the torch and touch it. What an amazing feeling and one I will remember forever!

I worked with an amazing group of people and one of my four supervisors was a fellow government employee, Philip Yung.

I'd like to say "Thank You" to the Government of B.C., BCPSA, BCGEU and VANOC for giving employees the opportunity to participate in Vancouver 2010. It is something that I will remember forever, and I might even do something like this again in the future. ♦



Security Behind the Scene at Robson Square

Submitted by Steve Haywood, District CVSE Manager

Thanks to having excellent colleagues at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to cover for me, I was fortunate enough to be seconded to the Olympic Games Secretariat for four months. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. To be brought on to assist in the operational planning and implementation of the Robson Square Celebration Site is something that I will never forget.

The first three months were definitely not as exciting as the last, but the efforts were necessary, rewarding, and provided numerous networking opportunities. Countless hours, days and weeks were spent connecting with other provincial ministries, and providing presentations to more groups than I can remember on the role of the Olympic Games Secretariat, about how we could assist during the Games and explaining transportation challenges and solutions in the downtown core.

The excitement that permeated from the groups was phenomenal. It seemed every office I walked into had a stuffed Quatchi, or Miga, or Sumi – and everyone wanted to show their mascot off!

The visual changes in the downtown core on a weekly basis were amazing; construction was non-stop during the lead up. For February, we were located in Police Services office space at the corner of Hornby and Robson. What a pleasure it was to be there, overlooking the square.

The week before the Games, you could see the city coming together very quickly. All construction had peaked and the party started to take shape. Prior to opening ceremonies, athletes started arriving and a buzz was in the air. Robson Square was getting busier and busier, and people began asking when the zip line was opening and when the light shows were starting.

Once the Games started, the month became a blur. Each day, massive crowds descended on downtown Vancouver and the mood was constantly festive. Robson Square featured the GE Ice Plaza with daily mascot shows three times daily, the uber popular zip line (with its up to seven-hour waits), non-stop entertainment on the stages, sports on the big screens, the international media centre, twice nightly light and fireworks shows called Ignite the Dream, and so many more activities. The BC-Canada Pavilion also drew large crowds to the Vancouver Art Gallery, with more than 5,000 people a day viewing the province's showcase to the world.

The transfixing night time scene at Robson Square.

Robson Square, after the Canadian men's gold medal hockey victory.

Steve Haywood poses with the Stanley Cup during his Olympic security assignment.

My primary role during Games time was coordinating the different security/policing groups. We had Sheriffs, Corrections staff, and private security all intertwined on the site, ensuring the family atmosphere remained that way – a great job they did too.

One superb benefit arose from my security assignment. As "the man with the keys" I was asked to escort VIPs through the "behind the scenes" areas, to where they needed to go. Premier Gordon Campbell was a regular, along with many ministers. Canadian athletes would be there to attend a press conference the day after winning a medal. There were also the Governors of Washington and Montana and the Governator himself, Arnie Schwarzenegger (I thought he was taller!) Other VIPs included athletes Marty Brodeur, Michelle Kwan, Shani Davis, Scott Hamilton and Johnny Weir; President of the International Paralympic Committee Sir Phillip Craven; and my personal highlight, Rick Hansen. All made their way through Haywood's Underground Hallway System (self proclaimed).

The long hours were worth all the fun and memories generated, as well as all the new friends made. But none of it would have been possible without the great backing of ministry staff, especially Cole Delisle and Bruce Calbick who did the majority of my CVSE work while I was away.

I will owe them for a long time! ♦

Living the Dream with the Alpine Course Team

Submitted by Robbie Kalabis, Project Management Technician

I recently had the opportunity to volunteer for the Olympics, in Whistler Creekside. I was fortuitously placed on a men's alpine course crew team, aptly named the Dream Team. This was a group of "good 'ol boys" who got the job done and had a lot of fun! My tenure at the Games lasted from Feb. 4 through to Feb. 27.

Robbie Kalabis (far left) and his Alpine Course Crew colleagues in their smurf-blue uniforms, with an Inukshuk.

During the first two days of volunteering with the Dream Team, I found their unending hysterics to be nothing short of gleeful and happy-go-lucky. We shared many a laugh at each other's expense as we diligently worked to erect the "B-net" safety system. This blue fencing, in conjunction with the A-net system, ensures that in the event of a crash, the ski racer is deflected, slowed, or stopped from going off the track into an obstacle. On top of these safety measures, giant air bags are inflated by leaf blowers and are placed in front of television camera towers and hydrants for padding. After my first week, our small army of blue-clad smurf-like volunteers had successfully installed all of the safety apparatus from the top of the course to the bottom – much to the satisfaction of the course chiefs and the International Ski Federation representatives. We were ready for the Olympics!

Time to celebrate, right? Nope. The weather wasn't cooperating as much as we'd have liked, so we had to take part in a few shovelling programs to ensure the track was down to ice throughout. In fact, on a number of evenings a swath of volunteers would "water bar" the track under the light of headlamps and diesel generated lamp stands. This process involved injecting water 12-18 inches into the snow the entire length of the track, so that it was virtually a skating rink on a steep slope. I had no idea of the amount of effort put into ski racing and was thoroughly impressed by the commitment of all the volunteers to ensuring conditions were optimal for race day.

Robbie Kalabis takes a break from erecting B-net, to pose with an Olympic torch.

On Feb. 13, the second day of the Olympics, we had the official training run on the men's alpine ski course. Although it was somewhat foggy and snowing lightly, we got through the 100 or so racers who are all required to complete the training run on the same day. We were in a position to start running some races. Then the heavens opened and the gods shone down on us, as we basked in glorious sunshine and the views of the coastal mountains for a week!

The timing of the exceptionally nice weather could not have been better and we were off to the races. First came the Downhill, then the Super Giant Slalom, then the Super Combined and then the Giant Slalom. Throughout the races, I would stand course side waiting to fix a gate or shovel/rake any loose snow off the icy track. The Canadians unfortunately did not perform as well as we had hoped, but it was sure a rush to watch ski racers fly through Coaches' Corner at 120 km/h!

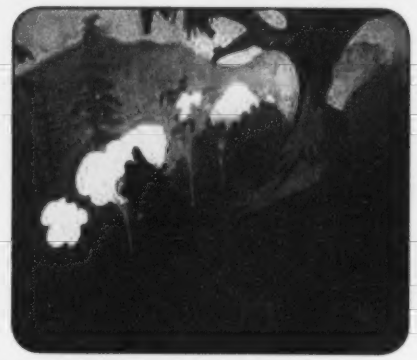
The final race on Feb. 27 was the most technical ski event – Slalom. It was foggy and quite warm that day. I woke at 1:30 a.m. to ride two buses, before getting to the venue at 2 a.m., for breakfast. We had been summoned at this ungodly hour, as the weather forecasters had predicted a snowfall overnight that luckily did not present itself. So, most people slumped over in their chairs, or found a space on the floor and hunkered down. Two of my new volunteer buddies and I decided to survey the course from the gondola and drink coffee. We made two laps before deciding to go for a second breakfast. At 7 a.m., we loaded onto the gondi once again, and made our way down to the slalom course to give it some care. What we ended up doing, since the air temperature was so close to zero, was packing the track in our ski boots, covering it with ammonium nitrate fertilizer, spraying it with water, smoothing it by side slipping down it on our skis, and letting it set. The rationale is that ammonium has a higher freezing temperature than water. Now we had a course that was as close to bullet proof as possible.

The race went off without a hitch and I even spotted the "Snow Leopard" – Ghana's first-ever ski competitor – Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong! ♦

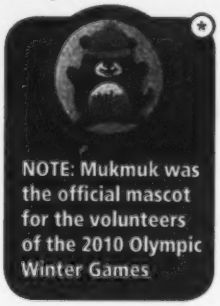
My Olympic Experience: An Alternate Reality

Submitted by Beverly van Druten-Blais, Graphics Specialist, Engineering Systems, HQ Victoria (MukMuk Extraordinaire)*

It was a dream of mine to be involved in some capacity with the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. I attended volunteer training in Vancouver and then disappointingly, no word from VANOC. So, in November of 2009 I applied for and landed a hosting job with the Olympic Games Secretariat (OGS). I attended several excellent training sessions in Victoria and Vancouver with the other eager hosts who were to be front-line representatives for our government, province and country. We were on our own for accommodation, food and transportation – just as if we were at home going to and from our regular jobs everyday. Except nothing about that time in our lives was regular…



My grandaughter, Linnaea, playing in "Spring" at the Multi-media Gallery.



NOTE: Mukmuk was the official mascot for the volunteers of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games

I left my old life and my loving husband behind, moved in with our kids and grandkids on Feb. 7, and started work two days later. Initially I was assisting the remarkable British Columbia-Canada Pavilion (BCCP) management team, who in a matter of a few months trained more than 200 people, devised work schedules that accommodated each individual's availability, and outfitted us all with uniforms to be ready to start work on opening day. Kudos to them!

My involvement with the 2010 Winter Olympics had also been prevalent in my regular job as a graphic designer. I worked extensively with Tracy Cooper on the location options for the illuminated Olympic Rings. I designed maps of the transportation plans for VANOC and our minister, presentations for VANOC, multi-lingual welcome signs featuring the mascots that were posted around Robson Square and downtown Vancouver, and the guest tags that each visitor to the BCCP received on a lanyard.

I worked 14 shifts for the Olympic Games Secretariat in and around the facility in Robson Square – "the centre of the universe."

My main hosting responsibility was the Multi-media Gallery, home to never-before-seen technology with a huge "wow" factor. In this slightly darkened room were three large cubes set on pedestals on the floor, each with four multi-touch interactive screens about six feet wide by five feet high. Visitors entering this room were often daunted by these huge lit cubes, the colour shifting light sticks in two corners, and on the long wall, a timelapse video projection chronicling the creation of colourful graffiti-like art depicting Vancouver.

I often greeted our visitors with: "Welcome to our playroom for large and small children. Please come on in and touch the screens and enjoy! See what happens. Have some fun!" I pointed out that this was one of the only areas in the gallery where they could touch the exhibits. And they did! And they smiled and laughed and enjoyed themselves! Almost every one – several thousand a day!

The surprise, joy and wonder on the faces of our visitors of all ages and origins was extraordinarily rewarding. They were totally amazed, especially when I proudly informed them that all they saw and experienced was designed and produced by B.C. companies.

I also had the opportunity to work outside conversing with the visitors lining up for one to two hours to get into the facility. Selecting complete strangers and then initiating a conversation with them was an invigorating experience that reminded me of myself when I was around three years old, chatting it up with anyone who walked past my house. The overall atmosphere in the city was joyous, positively infectious, and people were amazingly friendly, supportive and gracious.

Four of us early-bird workers received last minute surprise tickets and attended the final dress rehearsal for the Opening Ceremonies. That was the coolest treat ever!

I'd also been working on myself to try the zip line that ran above Robson Square everyday from early morning until midnight. I cannot even climb a stepladder, so I doubted if this "carpe diem" was something I could do. However, minutes after our women won the gold medal hockey game, coworker Sarah and I (both absolutely terrified) climbed the 81 steps up into the tower, clinging to the railings and incessantly reassuring each other so we wouldn't freak out and back down. Edging down those three metal stairs, perched up there way above the mass of teeny tiny people in Robson Square, was horribly frightening.

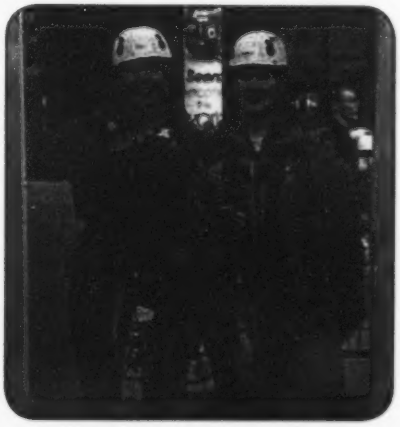
The ride was awesome! Talk about facing your fears! I yelled heartily all the way to the end tower where I clutched at anybody or anything until I was unhooked and down at ground level. What a rush! My whole body hummed with adrenaline for hours afterward.

I travelled with, walked among, and talked every day to thousands upon thousands of people. All this social interaction psychologically supercharged me. I was pumped, positive and happy. I felt young and alive! I literally dance-walked home after my shifts, sometimes stretching the hour walk to two just to relish the day and evening. Who knew?

I existed in an alternate reality during the Olympics. For a small-city girl who always avoids crowds, lineups and big cities, this was a huge adventure. Then there was a golden grand finale and a crowded ferry, and it was suddenly over…

It's been a slow go to get back to my own reality. Life seems bland. I miss the people and their joyous energy. I'm still emotionally charged and get misty remembering my Olympic experience.

It was so awesome! I did it! I fulfilled a dream! And I'm all weepy again! ♦



Beverly van Druten-Blais and colleague Sarah after their zip line ride.

Winning Hockey Tickets a Suite Deal

Submitted by Graeme Cross, Traffic Engineer

A packed SkyTrain breaking out into a chorus of O Canada?

In my thousands of SkyTrain commutes, when I lived in Metro Vancouver, I had never experienced anything like that. However, this was my introduction to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics on my ride into downtown.

Now a resident of Kamloops, I had anticipated watching lots of Olympic competition on television but I didn't plan on attending any of the events.

Those plans changed when I got a surprise email from BC Hydro. When I signed up for Team Power Smart some time ago (committing to reduce electricity use), unbeknownst to me, I was entered into a random draw to win tickets to the Olympics. I had won a pair of tickets to the men's ice hockey game between Norway and Switzerland on Feb. 20!

Fans cheer after Switzerland ties the game.

I was expecting two seats in the general admission area. However, I received a second surprise when I picked up the tickets in Vancouver, and found that they were for a suite I would be sharing with a few other BC Hydro winners.

So squeezed into a SkyTrain full of exuberance and red maple leaves, I rode toward Canada Hockey Place (aka GM Place). It was quite a sight – the sea of people everywhere, many sporting team colours from other countries. It was an unbelievable experience seeing the myriad of Olympic visitors to the city. However, the streets were not just full of people. Like the SkyTrain, incredible energy and excitement was everywhere.

Not having any affiliations with the countries of Norway or Switzerland, I was pleasantly surprised with my level of engagement in the game. The arena was full of fans and flags from both countries. At times, I would hear someone yell out "Which way?" to which the Norwegian crowd would reply "Norway!"

The Swiss cheer seemed to include a drum or foot stomp to the pattern of a repeated Boom... Boom... "Va Suisse!" which included the ringing of enormous, decorative cow bells. With the raucous cheering all around, I couldn't help but get excited whoever scored.

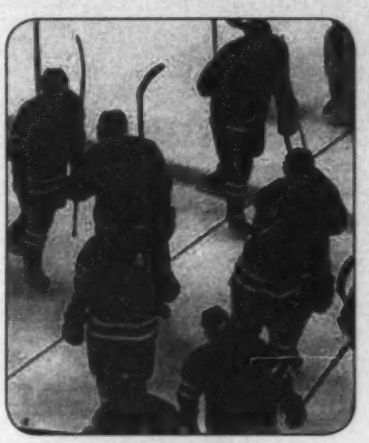
Before the game started, an interview with the wife and family of Norwegian player Tore Vikingstad (seemed to be pronounced Tour-ah Vick-ing-stad – definitely one of the coolest names of the Games) was broadcast on the centre ice screen. During the game, there was a great moment when Vikingstad scored a hat trick to tie the game late in the third period. The large screen showed his family cheering wildly with a banner that read "GO DAD!" and then Vikingstad smiling back on the bench looking up at the screen.

In the end, the game was won by Switzerland, 5-4, in overtime.

I had a fantastic, albeit a brief, Olympic experience. I will cherish those memories for a long time. ♦

Olympic Hockey Highlights

Submitted by Laird McLachlin, Program Analyst



Team Canada on the ice at Canada Hockey Place.

I had applied for about $7,000 worth of Olympic tickets and ended up with nothing. So, my father-in-law was kind enough to take me to the Switzerland vs. Belarus hockey game. This began at noon, on Feb. 23. While I was there, I called my brother who happened to be in Vancouver for work. He was able to get us tickets to the Canada vs. Germany hockey game later that day.

The puck dropped around 5 p.m., and Canada won 8-2. This meant Canada would play Russia two days later. The best part of the game was the deafening chant of "We want Russia!" near the end, and seeing all those NHL players. ♦

Graeme Cross caught the Olympic excitement in Vancouver.

Nothern Region Competes in Wii-nter Olympics

Submitted by Tim Woolnough, Geotechnical Assistant

The Northern Regional Office made time during our busy February 22-26 week, to celebrate the Olympics and show our Olympic spirit.

There was a television on in one of the meeting rooms, so people could stop in during their breaks, to see Canada's gold medal haul. During lunch each day, people gathered to spend time competing in Wii-nter Olympics. The hard to find "Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Winter Games" was rented and staff competed in Wii bobsleigh, skeleton, curling, ski and snowboard cross, ski jumping, and alpine skiing.

On our Olympic theme day, participants dressed up in Olympic apparel, or with some kind of Olympic theme garb. Thankfully, nobody came dressed in a luge outfit! There were prizes for the best dressed as voted on by the German, French and Russian judges. Although there was some judging controversy, as would be expected, and some financial bribes, all turned out well in the end. ♦

Olympic theme day in the Northern Region office.

Mascot Knowledge Nets Olympic Mitts

Submitted by Gord Wagner, Regional Manager, Engineering

Nini Long, Tim Woolnough and Sabrina Larsen with winnings in hand. The third-place winner, Brendan Miller, was not available for the photo.

It started with my email on Jan. 25.

"I have two pair of red Olympic mitts to give away. Tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. I will send out a skill testing question and the first and fifth correct response I receive will win a pair of mitts. To be eligible you have to be planning on attending the torch relay on Friday evening as it passes through Prince George or in your community for those outside of Prince George. Red Olympic mittens will be a must have along the torch route and at the ceremony. You are only allowed one entry and it must be submitted via e-mail to me. My computer will be the official time keeper. If I don't get a fifth correct answer by 10:00 a.m. precisely, the last correct answer received prior to 11:00 a.m., will win the prize."

And additional two pairs of mitts were subsequently generously donated by Lenora Fillion, increasing the chances of winning. On Jan. 26, at 9:31 a.m., the challenge was issued.

THE SKILL-TESTING QUESTION:

Name all three of the Official 2010 Winter Olympic Games Mascots

In first place with a prompt response at 9:31 a.m. was Tim Woolnough.

The second winner with a response at 9:32 a.m. was Sabrina Larsen.

The third winner with a response also at 9:32 a.m. was Brendan Miller.

The last correct answer, received at 9:36 a.m. was from Nini Long

In total, 17 correct responses were received. Trent Folk submitted the second correct answer but was only eligible for an honourable mention under the rules of the game. Gordon Hunter was a close tie for fourth and received honourable mention.

Bert Van Mook was disqualified from competition for submitting two answers. He subsequently launched an appeal claiming there are in fact four mascots. The Appeals Committee considered his claim and after careful consideration dismissed his case.

In the true spirit of Olympic sportsmanship, Colleen Davis removed herself from the competition, demonstrating her innocence of the pregame scandal. She had been accused of having an unfair advantage, as she had correctly guessed the question, before it even came out! ♦

Career Profile: Leonard Sielecki

Submitted by Max Walker, EAF Road to Opportunity Team

Leonard Sielecki has been our ministry's Environmental Issues Analyst since 1996. He works in the Engineering Branch at Headquarters in Victoria. Leonard says he finds his job interesting because there is a diverse range of challenging environmental issues he faces on a daily basis. These range from noise and greenhouse gases, to human safety and wildlife protection. Prior to Leonard's current position, he was a policy analyst with the ministry's Policy Branch. His work in the ministry provides him with the opportunity to do his part to protect the environment.

Leonard Sielecki's passion for the environment includes fishing.

Leonard likes working with the ministry's engineers, technicians and frontline regional and district staff. He says they have a great appreciation and concern for the environment, and together, they design, develop and manage some of the best infrastructure for protecting fish and wildlife in the world. He is very proud of everyone's accomplishments, and finds this very satisfying.

Before Leonard started with the ministry, he had a diverse range of interesting jobs. He was a Project Manager for Agriculture Canada, a Harbour Manager for the Canadian Coast Guard, a Land Use Planner for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and a Municipal Planner for Alberta Municipal Affairs.

For anyone wanting a career in the environment protection field, Leonard advises that a combination of education, professional accreditation and professional affiliation helps to deal with other professionals, on an equal basis. He recommends that people interested in the environment study biology, geography, environmental science or environmental engineering. His other advice is to read National Geographic and similar magazines and watch the Discovery Channel and Knowledge Network. Experience working with both corporate policy development and field operations would also be helpful.

"Being able to understand and appreciate how and why policies are developed and how these policies can be successfully implemented in the field is important," say Leonard. "Develop the ability to communicate effectively with people from different professions and walks of life, and persuade them that preserving and enhancing the natural environment is something we can all personally benefit from."

Leonard holds a bachelor's degree in science for biology and geography (double major with distinction) from the University of Victoria, and a master's degree in science (geography) from the University of Saskatchewan. He is a registered professional biologist and a registered professional land use planner. In addition, he is a member of the American Planning Association, the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals and the B.C. Institute of Agrologists.

When Leonard can fit it into his schedule, he volunteers for organizations that advance the field of environment and transportation. Currently, he is a member of the steering committee of the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation. Leonard is also a manuscript reviewer for the Journal of Ecology and Society and the Estonian Journal of Ecology.

For the last seven years, he has been working on a self-funded Ph.D. on environmental risk management. "This takes up all my evenings, weekends and holidays, so I don't recommend anyone do a degree this way!" Leonard says. He balances this with, "Luckily, I have a very supportive spouse, for whom I am eternally grateful."

When work with Leonard's degree finally wraps up, he will be taking his wife and son to Disney World for a long overdue vacation. Then he plans to do an electric vehicle conversion. ♦

Chart Your Career Path

Career Profiles contain inspiring and innovative ideas from others, to help chart your career route! Check out the more than 20 Career Profiles gathered by the EAF's Road to Opportunity Team at gww.th.gov.bc.ca/eaf/csi/profiles.asp.

Career Profile: Abid Sivic

Submitted by Max Walker, EAF Road to Opportunity Team Member

Abid Sivic's electrical engineering positions have ranged from Instructor in Bosnia, to Senior Electrical and Video Systems Engineer in B.C.

Abid Sivic is the Senior Electrical and Video Systems Engineer at the South Coast Regional Electrical Engineering Centre, and is currently responsible for the management and delivery of electrical designs for ministry infrastructure. He enjoys working with the new and emerging technologies of intelligent transportation systems.

In 1980, Abid graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Zagreb in the former Yugoslavia. After university, he worked as an electrical engineering instructor, in his hometown in Bosnia, at a trades and technology school. Later he worked in a variety of positions at a metal fabrication company.

Abid's life and career were suddenly and violently disrupted in 1992, when the war started in former Yugoslavia and in Bosnia. After two long years in a war environment, he managed to emigrate to Canada with his family, in 1994. His first job in Canada was in UBC's Geography Department as an engineering technician/research assistant supporting physical geography and atmospheric science professors in their research.

In 1998, Abid won a competition as an Electrical Research and Evaluation Technologist at the ministry's Electrical Engineering Centre in Delta. He was re-assigned as the Electrical Special Projects Engineer after fulfilling the registration requirements of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia. Abid has held a variety of positions within the Electrical Engineering Centre, including a stint as Manager, Electrical Engineering.

Abid enjoys the technical nature and challenges of the job and part of his passion for this work is serving the public while maintaining high safety standards.

While an electrical engineering degree is a requirement of his current position, Abid also suggests that anyone wanting to get into this field supplement that knowledge with traffic, transportation, intelligent transportation systems courses and other professional development opportunities.

Abid is married with two daughters and one two-year-old granddaughter.

Away from work, he says he "keeps his sanity" by fly-fishing. Abid's other hobbies include playing guitar, electronics, orchids and wild mushroom identification. ♦

Mentoring Moment – Good, Better, Best*

Submitted by the EAF's Road to Opportunity Team

There are three ways to provide mentoring.

GOOD	BETTER	BEST
RECOGNIZE notice something	**VERBALIZE** learn something	**MOBILIZE** do something
MANAGER	MANAGER	MANAGER
Hmm, looks great. I didn't know you like this kind of stuff.	This is really good. Is this something you'd like to do more of?	If you like this kind of work, why not find out what being an Area Manager is all about? Let the Operations Manager know you're interested, and see if you can take on a temporary assignment.

* Based on *Love 'em Or Lose 'em: Getting Good People to Stay*, by Beverly Kaye and Sharon Jordan-Evans, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2008. (With edits to reflect ministry operations).

Do You Know?

Brought to you by the EAF's Team Appreciation

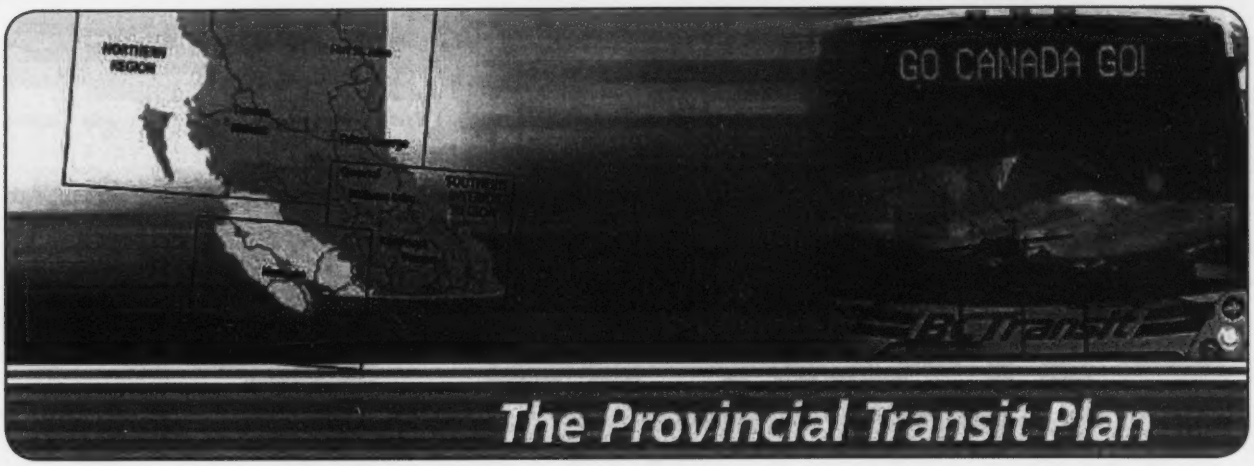
FACTS ABOUT PAY AND BENEFITS

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Pacific Blue Cross, the current carrier for our Extended Health Plan, has travel insurance plans available to purchase, if you or your dependants are travelling outside of the province.

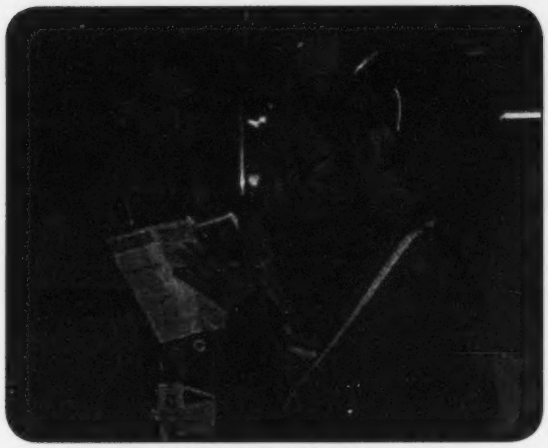
Not only are their plans competitive, but they offer a 20 per cent discount for employees who are part of the Province's group plan.

Pacific Blue Cross can be contacted toll-free at 1-877-277-0772.



Olympic Transit Success Achieved

Submitted by Jean Bishop, Transit Analyst



The languages and cultural backgrounds of visitors from around the world were addressed in transit services.

The final facts and figures are in. Public transit in Metro Vancouver and Whistler was a resounding success and was an integral component in the triumph of the Olympics. TransLink and BC Transit staff took great time and effort to plan and carry out what was needed to support the demands expected from transit, and they rose to the challenge.

In Metro Vancouver alone, 26 million riders were reported to have used TransLink's region-wide transit system, over the February Olympic period. The SkyTrain was particularly busy, as tourists, volunteers and residents made use of the modernized and expanded system over the extended hours provided. Compared to normal periods, there was more than a doubling in ridership for the Canada Line and SeaBus.

Ridership for the Expo/Millennium Line and the West Coast Express rose more than 50 per cent. On average there were 1.58 million boardings per weekday; which is equivalent to carrying 70 per cent of the area's population every day on transit.

For the Sea-to-Sky and Whistler regions, BC Transit hired more than 250 drivers to operate their fleet which included 96 additional buses. Part of this expansion to the fleet included 20 hydrogen fuel cell buses. These buses will remain in Whistler as part of the $89.5 million demonstration project that will continue into March 2014. Manuel Achadinha, President and CEO of BC Transit, stated, "To play a part in providing the Olympic experience was an incredible opportunity to showcase our fleet, green technology and our outstanding customer service." BC Transit services ran on a 24-hour, seven-days-per-week schedule and moved more than 1.5 million customers over the entire month of February.

Given the numerous travel restrictions and limited public parking, transit was by far the best way for everyone – including VANOC staff, volunteers, and Olympic spectators – to move around during the three week period. "In moving about 50 per more people per day during the Games as we normally do, we've been able to show the people of Metro Vancouver how well their transit system can work for them," said TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis.

The Transit Branch would like to extend our congratulations to both TransLink and BC Transit for their contribution to the success of the Olympics. The dedication of the staff and the professionalism that they displayed throughout the Games ensured that most residents and visitors travelling within Metro Vancouver, and between Richmond, Vancouver and Whistler, had a chance to see how effective transit can be as their choice of transportation. ♦

TransLink staff were at all busy stations, including the Waterfront Station in downtown Vancouver, to help new riders get to their destination.

Cheryl Scott Earns Financial Management Certificate

Submitted by Paula Cousins, Regional Manager of Corporate Services

On March 16, at a ceremony held in Victoria, the Office of the Comptroller General presented certificates of graduation to nine individuals who completed the provincial government's Financial Management Certificate Program.

The program, sponsored by the Office of the Comptroller General, recognized the Southern Interior Region's A/Regional Financial Analyst Cheryl Scott, among the other recipients. Cheryl was the only graduate from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure this year. She was presented with her graduation certificate by Comptroller General Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland, along with Transportation Planning A/ADM Kevin Richter and Finance and Management Services ADM Nancy Bain.

Cheryl took the required courses by correspondence, while raising her two sons as a single parent and working full time. Quite an achievement! Cheryl also received her Certificate of Management Studies from Thompson Rivers University, in December 2009. Cheryl offers her sincere appreciation for the ministry's support in her pursuit of these two programs.

Congratulations Cheryl – your years of hard work have paid off. ♦

A/Regional Financial Analyst Cheryl Scott (centre) with Transportation Planning A/ADM Kevin Richter (left) and Finance and Management Services ADM Nancy Bain (right).

Long Service Awards in Okanagan-Shuswap

Okanagan-Shuswap District Manager Murray Tekano presents Joe Peterson with a 30-year Long Service Award gift.

On Feb. 4, Penticton staff honoured Development Approval Technician Joe Peterson, for his 30 years of excellent service to the ministry. Joe had been unable to attend the Long Service Awards ceremony, held in Victoria, on Oct. 15. The food at the Penticton gathering wasn't as nice as at the Lieutenant Governor's House, but the company was great!

Penny Dewart (left) and Jon Jensen (right) receive their Long Service Awards from Senior Project Director Murray Tekano.

Long service pins were presented to staff at the Kicking Horse Canyon Project on March 4, during a break at a Public Open House event, in Golden. Project Administration Assistant Penny Dewart received her 35-year pin and Senior Project Manager Jon Jensen, received his 30-year pin. Kicking Horse Canyon Senior Project Director Murray Tekano gave the pins and congratulations to Penny and Jon. ♦

"Own the Podium" Has New Meaning for Branch

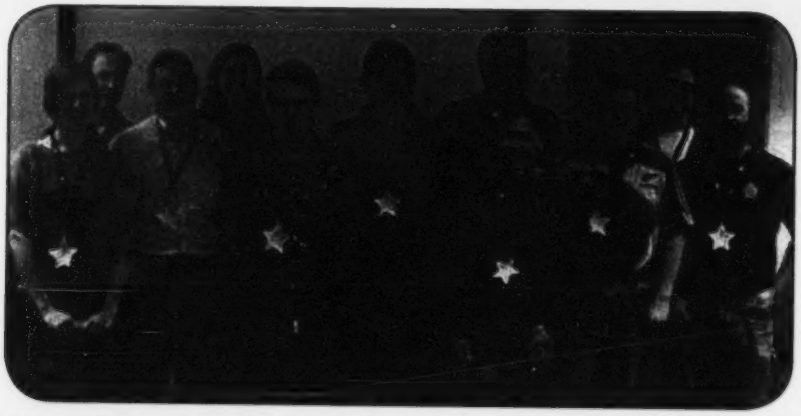
Submitted by Janice Meier, Manager, Business Analysis

Sam Casler, Bob Buckingham, Dale Francis, Lesley Haltner and Dean Rodgers receive their "gold medals" for each providing more than 25 years of service.

No, we did not win a ski jumping event, or a curling match, or successfully ski moguls, or even complete a short track speed skating race. And we were not crazy enough to enter the luge or skeleton competitions. But all Information Management Branch (IMB) staff were recognized for their Olympic efforts in the sports of hardware and software installation, project management, application development, maintenance and support, planning, fiscal responsibility and all around team spirit.

In an exciting, emotional medal presentation ceremony, IMB staff were awarded with Olympic medals for years of service. In a staff meeting on March 5, the IMB management team recognized all staff by presenting each eligible staff member with their years of service pins. To tie in with the Olympic spirit, the service pins were bestowed on lanyards with replicas of the Olympic medals attached. Gold medals were presented to seven staff members with 25 or more years of service, silver medals were handed to 15 employees with between 15 and 24 years, and bronze medals were earned by four employees who have been here between five and 14 years.

To note our younger "athletes" with less than five years of service, gold stars were distributed to recognize their efforts and encourage them to continue their careers at the ministry. The total number of years of service for the branch as of Dec. 31, 2010, will be 592! Go, IMB, go! ♦

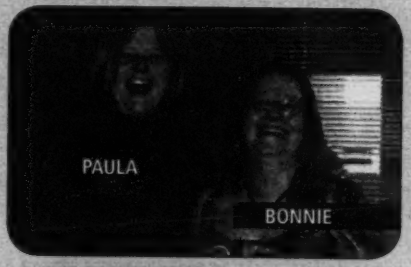


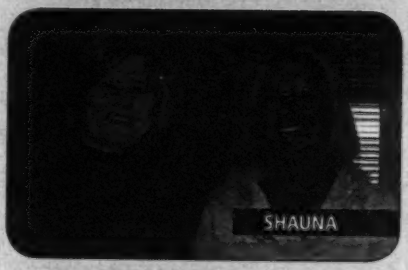
Information Management Branch "athletes" with less than five years of service were presented with gold stars.

Long Service Recognized in SIR

Submitted by Crystal Chenier, Secretary

In early April, Paula Cousins, Manager of Corporate Services for the Southern Interior Region presented service pins to four employees. Brian Jepsen was recognized for his 10 years of service, and Shirley Fisher and Bonnie Fadden each received 20-year pins. Shauna Carlson had the most years of service, and was presented with a 30-year pin. ♦





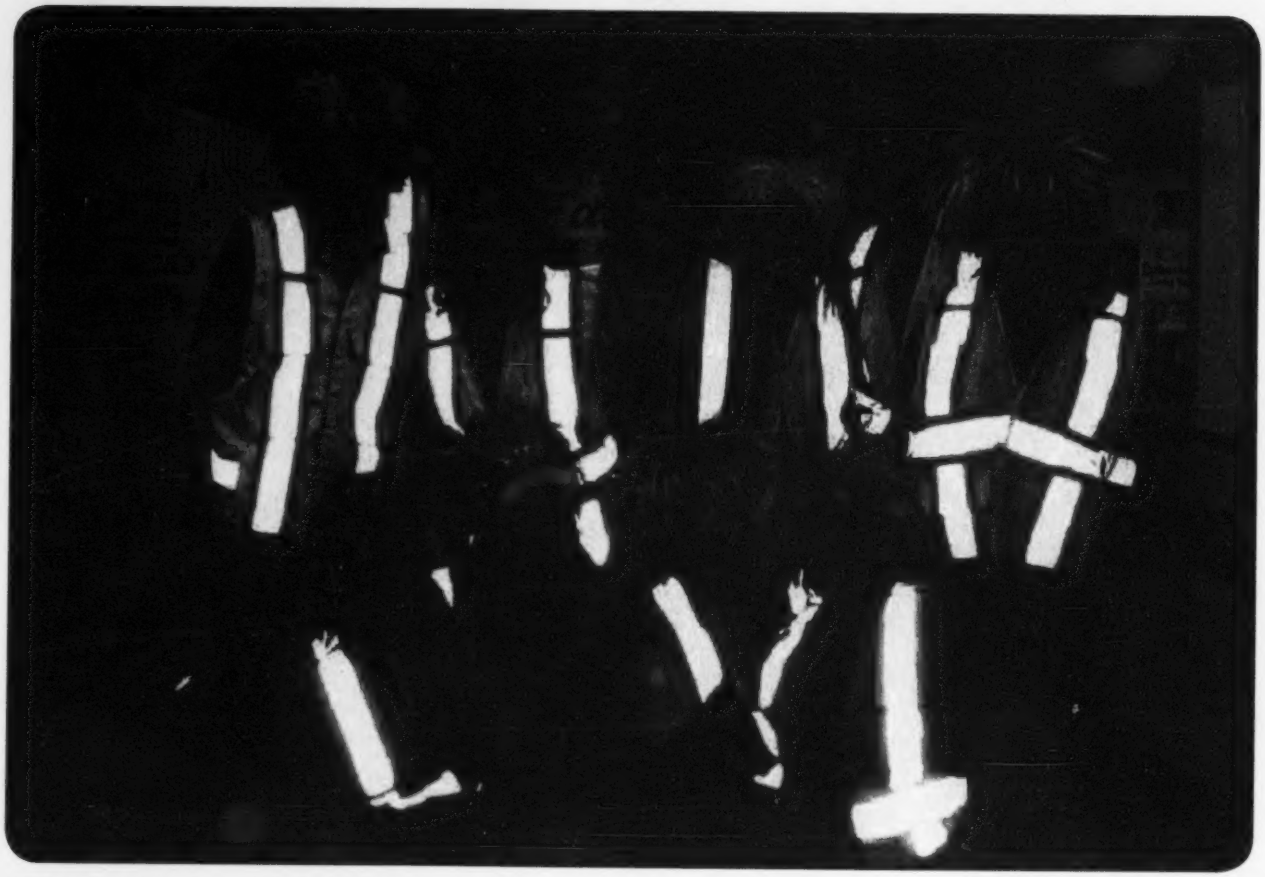
Highway Rollers Bowl Again

Submitted by Crystal Chenier, Secretary

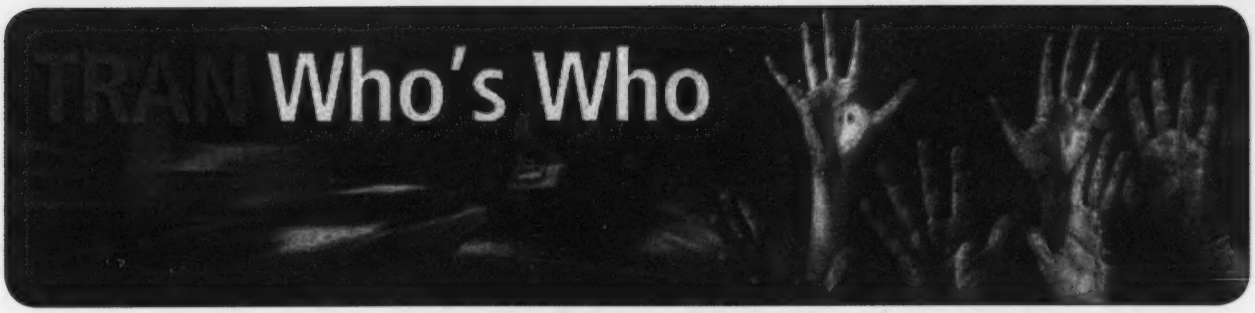
For their seventh year, the Highway Rollers bowled in the annual Strikes for Tykes fundraising event, held Feb. 25, in Kamloops.

There are three original bowlers who have stayed together over the seven years: Crystal Chenier, Corinne Chartrand and Penny Radies. This year, Maurice LeFrancois was the high score winner with 221. Our low score went to Jeanne Reeves with 75.

The Highway Rollers raised $1,599 by participating in this year's Strikes for Tykes. Thanks to all who help with the donations to benefit Big Brothers and Sisters, in Kamloops. ♦



The Highway Rollers in their seventh dazzling year.

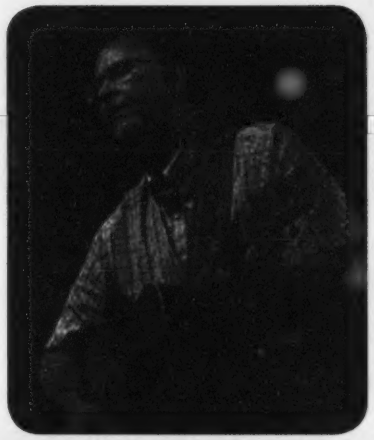


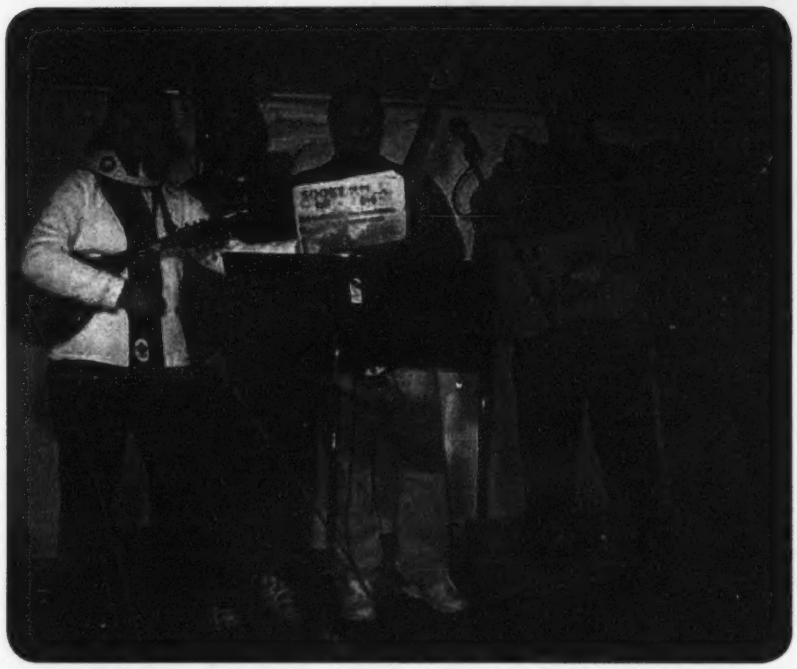
Planiden Performs at O Zone

Submitted by Len Sielecki,
Environmental Issues Analyst

Manager of Roadside Development Al Planiden and his wife Kathy, performed with their band at Richmond's O Zone on "BC Street," during the Olympics. Their community of Sooke was one of 82 communities selected to create a comprehensive, interactive tour of B.C.

Al and Kathy's band, Group Therapy, performs original songs about Sooke. ♦





Al Planiden (with guitar) second on the right, and his wife Kathy (with mandolin) first on the left, entertain in Richmond.

Kevin and Kathryn Weicker Welcome Lilly

Submitted by Jim Richardson,
Regional Transportation Planning Engineer

Lilly Weicker is held by her mom, Kathryn.

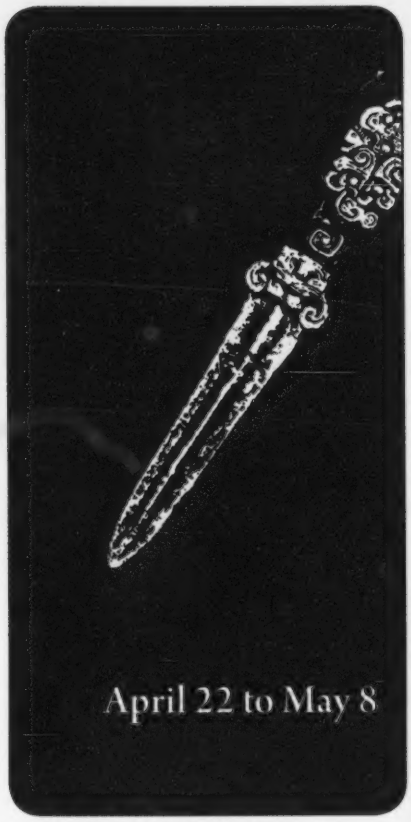
Lillian Vera Weicker, born on Dec. 22, 2009 in Kamloops, is the daughter of proud parents Kevin and Kathryn Weicker.

Kevin is the Assistant Bridge Consultant Liaison/ Design Engineer and Kathryn is a Transportation Planning Engineer for the Southern Interior Region. They have been employees of the ministry for the past two years. Kathryn is on maternity leave until January 2011, looking after her Lilly.

We're wondering if Lilly will consider a career with the ministry when she grows up. ♦

Silver Dagger Employs Stage Fighting Skills

Submitted by Kathy Macovichuk, Graphic Production Technician



A "blood expert" for *Silver Dagger* ensured believability for the audience.

You wait in darkened theatre wings. The excited murmur of the audience is a comfortable background buzz accentuated by softy rustling programs. The public announcement thanks sponsors and asks patrons to turn their cell phones off. House lights begin to dim and the crowd quiets down. The first line plays in a constant loop inside your head as you take your place on the unlit stage. Deep breath in. Lights come up. The play begins.

Silver Dagger is a murder mystery that has as many twists and turns as Duffey Lake Road. A series of phone calls and letters threatens to destroy a marriage. Adultery, blackmail, murder and a figure that lurks in the rain are all elements of this play by David French, a Canadian playwright.

I had the privilege of being a part of this, the fifth show of Langham Court Theatre's 81st season. In my role as Pamela, wife of famous mystery writer Steve Marsh, I had the opportunity to learn a few stage effects that I haven't come across in the 12 years I've been doing community theatre – slapping a fellow actor's face and dealing with blood on the stage.

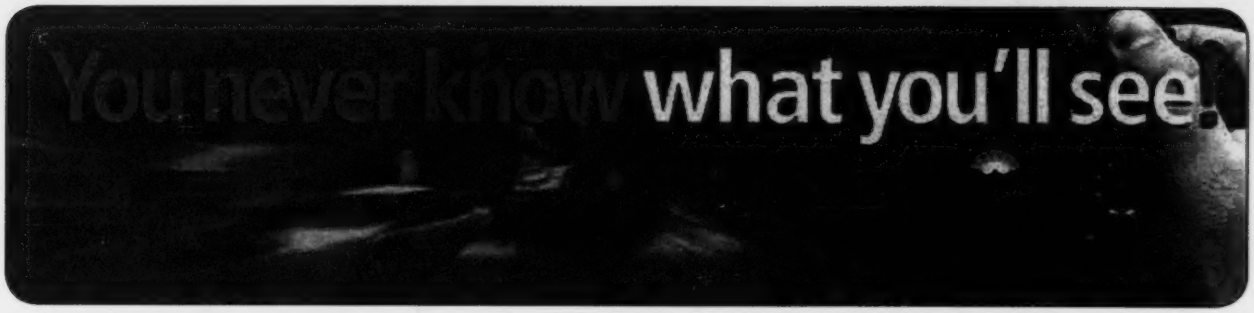
Stage fighting is an art form that comes in all sizes and varieties but safety is always the key issue. Even a simple slap in the face needs all actors involved to rehearse this choreographed move over and over again, to ensure that no one is actually getting hurt, but the action is believable for the audience.

Kathy Macovichuk has been applying her creative skills to acting for 12 years.

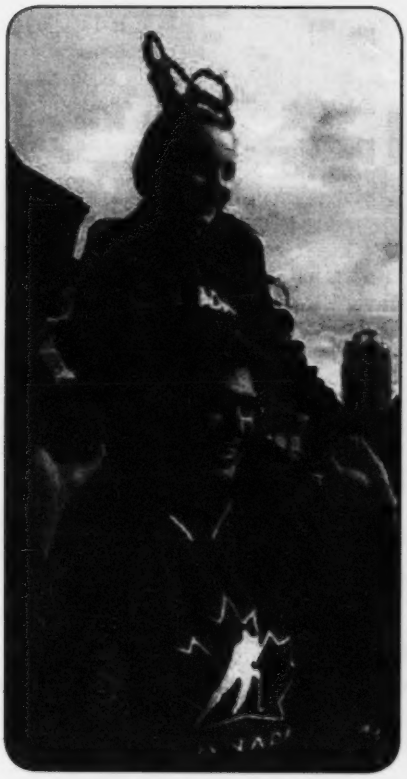
For its use of stage blood, Langham Court brought in a special "blood expert" to supervise. And no, they didn't have to obtain this expert from Transylvania. We had a rehearsal dedicated for this alone, to make sure the effect is as natural as possible and to minimize clean-up for the stage crew.

Silver Dagger ran from April 22 to May 8, at Langham Court Theatre, in Victoria. ♦

Submit your stories and photos to Runner
If you want to submit articles
send your Word files and photos to:
RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca.
To ensure the best quality possible,
please email your photos as JPEGs
and do not embed them in your article.



Olympic Hairstyle Trendsetter

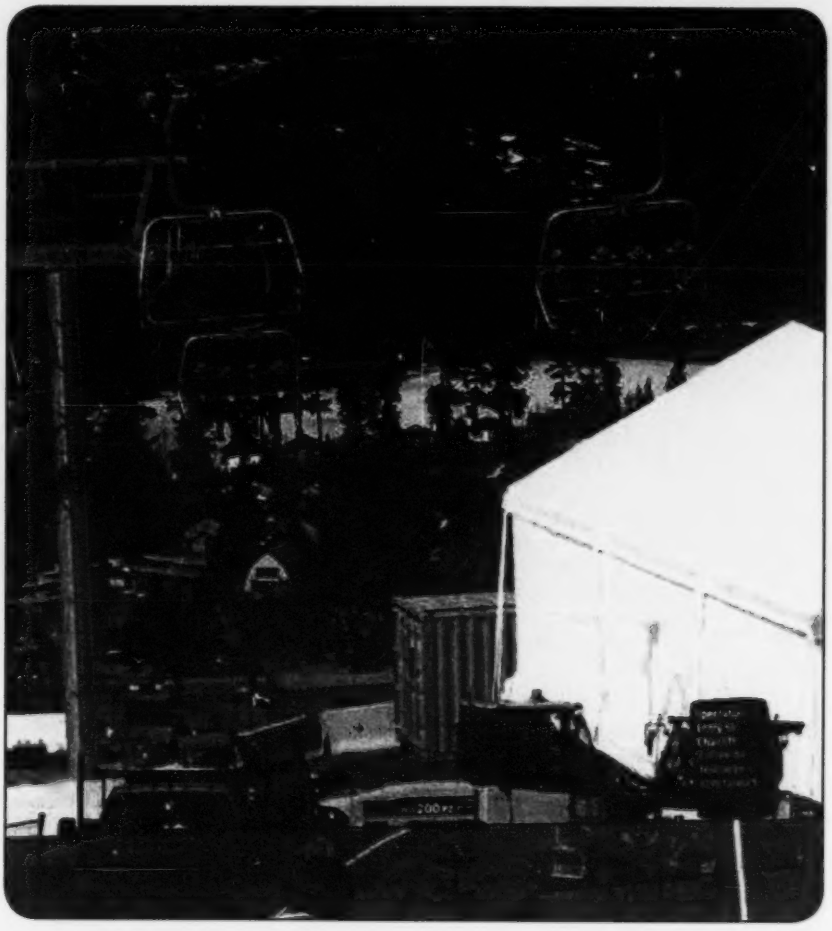


Cathy Grossmith sent in this photo of her cousin Eddy Butler (who designed and built the Olympic rings at the airport and Coal Harbour) with his daughter Victoria. Victoria's Olympic rings hairstyle, sculpted from coat hangers, nylon cable ties and her hair, created quite a commotion. It took two hours to walk five blocks – everyone wanted a picture! ♦

Mounties Rise to the Occasion

Dressed in red serge, two groups of Mounties rode a chairlift to perform ceremonial duties, atop a peak in Whistler. Area Manager Max Walker's daughter, Laticia, took this photo during the Paralympics, a few hours before the alpine medal presentations, on March 20.

Laticia worked at South Coast Engineering for a summer while attending university. This year she will receive a master's degree in science from University of Alberta. ♦



Southern Interior Region Bonspiel an Olympic Success

Submitted by Tom Freeman, Transportation Studies Officer

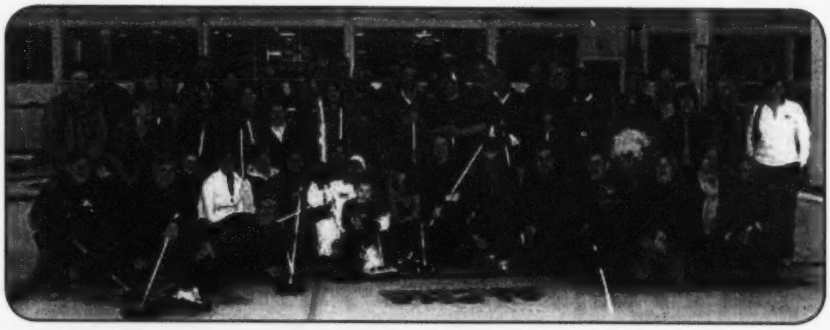
On Jan. 30, the Southern Interior Region Two-Ender Bonspiel took place at the Kamloops Curling Club. This spiel was first held in 1971, and continues to be a fun time for participants and spectators.

Our "Skip Behind the Glass" with her curling-rock-yellow hair – Crystal Chenier – provided on and off ice photography and the 50/50 draw that was won by Norm Parkes.

Outstanding performances resulted in the following individual awards:

- Slippery Shoe Award – James Lee
- Runner-up Crash Award – Wijaya Widyaratne
- Best Presentation Female – Sarah Duggan: invoking plaid rule and inspiring team to dress up
- Best Presentation Male – Norm Parkes: first ever 0/0 game in the Two Ender!
- Hog Rocks Award – Mike Brugger: hogged 6/8 rocks over four ends
- Lucky Award – Maurice LeFrancois: wicked and rolled off of anything, curled in bowling shoes
- MVP – Luci Tremblay: for our very own Olympic Torch Relay on Ice. After running in the 2010 Torch Relay, she shared her torch with the bonspiel participants for our group photo.

Special thanks to the Organizing Committee of Sue Stankievech, Dave Shibata, Kathy Strobbe and Tom Freeman. ♦



Bonspiel participants gather around Luci Tremblay's 2010 Olympic Torch. Crystal Chenier sported curling-rock-yellow hair.

FIRST PLACE
Val Kershaw
Harvey Nelson
Carmone Allen
James Lee

SECOND PLACE
Carrie Stiles-Freeman
Sarah Duggan
Genevieve Pelletier
Gary Stankievech

PLUNGER AWARD
Jeanne Reeves, Christine Banford, Len Bosch and Ken Kobayashi

THIRD PLACE
Sue Stankievech
Deborah Tan
Adrian Wynnyk
Joanne Dobson

Steamrollers Join Multi-Sport Relay Race

Submitted by Dave Retzer, Project Information Officer

On April 11, six Southern Interior Regional Office staff and one family member formed the BC MoT Steamrollers, taking part in the 30th annual Ski 2 Sea relay race, from Big White to Okanagan Lake.

It was the first year our Kamloops office entered a team and it turned out to be great fun!

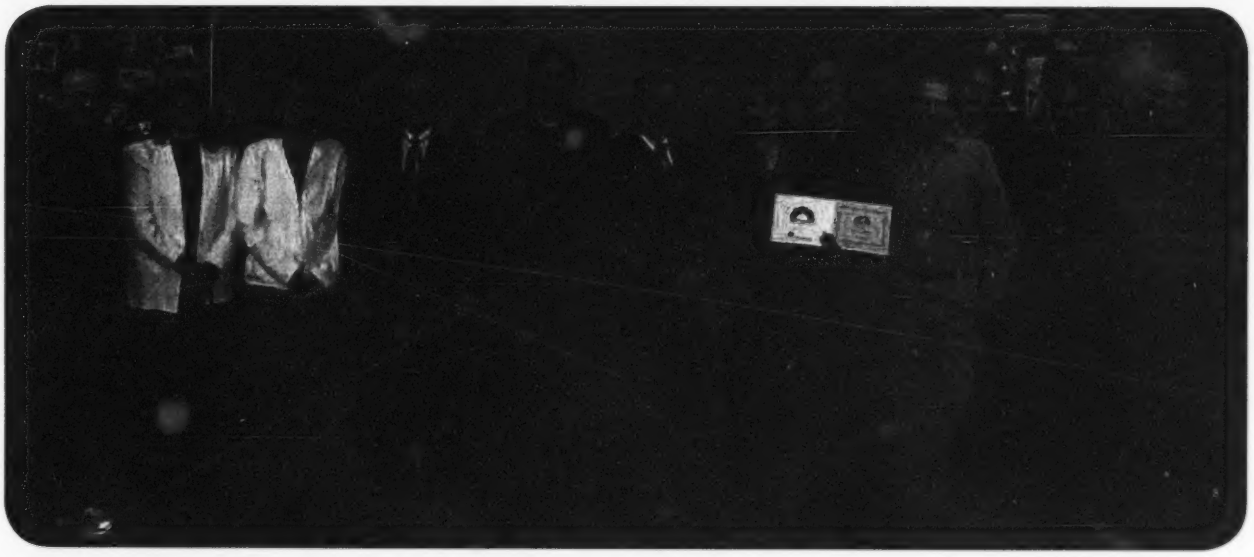
The race started at Big White Resort where the first team member ran uphill in full ski gear and then skied down the mountain, passing off to a Nordic skier. The other legs of the race included a mountain bike ride, road bike ride, run and two-person canoe journey – spanning a total of 95 kilometres.

The weather was slightly chilly on race day and there was snow and mud on the forestry road, resulting in one very dirty mountain biker. However, that didn't stop us from placing 48th out of 111 teams, and crossing the finish line in four hours and 42 minutes.

It was definitely an event to remember and hopefully we'll be out there again next year. ♦

The BC MoT Steamrollers: John Coyne, Kevin Weicker, Helen Dacho, Dave Retzer, Paul Imada, Frank Dacho and Ed Wnuk.

Premier's Awards Finalists



Pictured here is the Cariboo Connector Program Delivery Team, which was a finalist in the Northern Region Premier's Awards. The team was congratulated by Chief Operating Officer, Dave Byng (sixth from left). The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's other finalists were Tracy Cooper, and teams for the Sea-to-Sky Improvement Project, the Weigh2GoBC Program, Beetle Kill to Bio-Fuel Project and the North Beach Rock Slide. The outstanding work of all involved is documented in videos for the awards at gww.gov.bc.ca/career/premiers-awards/2010/finalists/regional. ♦

Onto new vistas

TRAN Employee Retirements

Terry Murphy: Integrity, Service and Tenacity

Submitted by Dave Edgar, Transportation Planning Engineer

Vancouver Island District staff said goodbye to long time co-worker, Terry Murphy, at a luncheon on March 31. After almost 35 years, Terry is calling it quits, retiring to the life of a gentleman farmer.

Terry began with the ministry in 1975, as an auxiliary with the district survey crew, and never looked back. After a few years he moved over to Development Approvals, and later he was offered a position in project management where he stayed ever since. In April 2005, Terry was promoted to Senior Project Manager.

At the luncheon, Terry was awarded the coveted "Vancouver Island District Life Time Diplomat Award." Affectionately known as the "Dip" award, this is the first time it was given out to such a long-serving employee. Terry won the award by consistently and bravely saying, whatever was on his mind, to his co-workers.

Terry has exemplified those characteristics the ministry is best known for. They are: integrity, service, tenacity and an unfailing ability to accomplish things. He has been shaped by the ministry and in turn has helped shape those who have followed him. Terry has consistently protected the public interest, regardless of the cost to him.

He has delivered hundreds and hundreds of much-needed road and bridge projects. As with other ministry project managers and supervisors, he has taken on many projects that were short on funds, with seemingly impossible deadlines, and managed to deliver them all on time and under budget. Okay, maybe a few came in past time or over budget, but there is a story behind each of those. The demanding workload has left Terry with some scars, but we are all very pleased that he has reached the finish line looking fit and ready for whatever comes next.

Terry should be a poster boy (okay maybe "boy" is the wrong noun) for succession planning. He stepped up to the plate, acting as a strong mentor for our newest project technician/manager, Darren Englund. Not only did he freely share his vast knowledge, but he offered the encouragement and support that is so important to those just starting their careers. It is that straight from the heart approach that will ensure we retain the best and the brightest.

While on one hand we are sad to see Terry move on, on the other hand we are simply jealous! But truly we are happy for him, and look forward to seeing him at Timmy's (aka Tim Horton's) with the growing number of retirees. All the best Terry! ♦

☆ ☆ ☆

TERRY MURPHY was the successful applicant for Engineering Aide 3 with the Nanaimo Highway District. Terry joined the district survey crew in 1975 as an auxiliary employee. In 1976 he won through competition the position of regular Engineering Aide 2. Terry worked with the survey crew for three years and for the past three years has been working on subdivisions in the district office. He owns a farm and his hobbies are farming and rugby.

☆ ☆ ☆

Terry's move to Engineering Aide 3 is recorded in the Fall 1981 edition of Road Runner.

Terry Murphy at work during his last few days at the ministry.

Bob Corder Equipped for Retirement in Okanagan

Submitted by Maria Braden, Corporate and Operational Services Regional Manager

Bob kept smiling through his surprise retirement party.

After 36 years of service, Bob Corder has retired and moved to the sunny Okanagan.

Bob began his career with the ministry in Victoria as a mail clerk in headquarters, and from there he worked in the North Vancouver and New Westminster Districts as a clerk and went on to Merritt as a District Office Manager Trainee. After graduating from the trainee program, Bob moved to Lillooet as the Office Manager before going to Terrace as the Regional Financial Officer. Then it was time to head back to Victoria, where he worked as a Budget Analyst before going to Nanaimo as the Manager of Financial Services. It was in 1992 that he moved his family to Prince George, where he finished out his career as the Regional Manager of Corporate and Operational Services for the Northern Region.

Bob led many initiatives throughout his career such as the development and implementation of the Expenditure Management Report and the Best Practices Initiative. He also led the development of a state-of-the-art change management program, the KEE Model for Managing Change. Bob was able to inspire and empower others to achieve exceptional results and to challenge the status quo to do this. He was instrumental in successfully integrating the regional operational group with the finance and information technology group and orchestrated a highly resilient, highly committed group of individuals who have become very good at "doing more with less" and stepping up to any challenge.

We couldn't let Bob leave without having some kind of celebration of his long and successful career, and given that Bob indicated he wanted to leave quietly, it was decided that a "surprise" retirement party was in order. Unbelievably, we managed to pull it off, and finally had to tell him at 3 p.m., the day of the party. Boy was he surprised!

Joining in the celebration were colleagues from around the province, family and friends, and a special surprise guest – his daughter from Vernon. Northern Regional Director Shanna Mason chaired the evening and there were many laughs and tears, and not just from Bob.

The Finance staff put together a slide show with pictures of Bob throughout the years, and for many, this was a glimpse of just how important family is to Bob.

In addition to moving to Peachland and being closer to his grandsons, Bob is also the proud owner of a new boat. At his retirement party, Shanna Mason and Judy Gunderson very thoughtfully outfitted Bob with a few necessities for his future boating days, which included a homemade bailing bucket, a coat hanger on a stick for trying to get the bow line unwrapped from the propeller, and a mask, snorkel and knife for when you must dive in and cut the bow line from your prop. There also were many other handy items which Shanna assured Bob he will need. Bob was a really good sport and fun was had by all.

We wish Bob the very best for his retirement. He leaves us with a huge legacy and will be missed tremendously. ♦

Bob Corder is outfitted for retirement life in the Okanagan, by his colleagues.

Nash "Leave it to me" Jamal to Retire

Submitted by Liz Hope, A/Regional Manager, Corporate Services

Nash Jamal is retiring in June, after 30 years with the public service.

After a lengthy and successful career in the provincial government, Nash Jamal will be leaving the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, effective June 2010.

Nash was hired in management back in 1980, where he started his career with the Ministry of Children and Families. He moved to the Ministry of Housing and Social Development in 1996, where he was hired as a Reorganization Manager for a six-month term. We think this is where Nash accumulated his talent in organizing all of us at Transportation and Infrastructure!

In 1997, Nash joined the Ministry of Transportation as the Manager, Finance and Administration (to be renamed to Manager, Corporate Services in 2003) and life has been so riveting ever since that he never left the ministry!

Nash is known for his creative approach. You can often hear him saying, "Leave it with me," in a tone that indicates he's already strategizing a solution. And he always delivers the goods!

Outside of work, Nash is committed to volunteering, which he hopes to do more of during retirement. He also looks forward to spending time with his wife, two grown children and large circle of friends.

Nash, you will be missed and you leave big shoes behind to fill! All the very best! ♦

Al Planiden: Renaissance Roadside Vegetation Man Retires

Submitted by Len Sielecki, Environmental Issues Analyst

Gold Medal Environmental Champion Al Planiden was the ministry's expert on every aspect of roadside vegetation and its management.

On March 26, Al Planiden retired after 37 years with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Upon graduating from the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Al began his career as an herbicide applicator in the Nelson District Office. He finished his career as the Manager of Roadside Development with the Engineering Branch at Headquarters in Victoria.

Since his start with the ministry, there have been nine different provincial premiers and 20 ministers. The ministry also changed its name changed six times during Al's career. Over the years, Al took on an increasingly diverse range of responsibilities. Al was the ministry's point man for abandoned vehicles, rest areas, scenic highways, landscaping, wildflowers and invasive species (weeds). From managing the removal of dumped vehicles to controlling noxious weeds and designing flower and seed mixes, highway rights-of-way throughout the province are a legacy of Al's contribution to the "Beautiful" in the "Beautiful British Columbia."

As probably the most knowledgeable and experienced person in North America, on roadside vegetation management, Al was always willing to share his extensive knowledge with ministry staff, maintenance contractors, project consultants, other transportation agencies, and members of the general public. His publications include such industry-leading titles as the *Manual of Aesthetic Design Practice*, *Environmental Best Practices for Highway Maintenance Activities*, and *Guidelines for Environmental Design of Highway Drainage*.

Al's personal contribution to the *Standard Specifications for Highway Construction* included sections on topsoil and landscape grading; planting of trees, shrubs and ground covers; re-vegetation seeding; irrigation; and protection and retention of vegetation.

Al spent much of his career travelling around British Columbia providing expert advice for everything from small reseeding jobs to landscape design on major projects. Regardless of the geographic location, he knew the challenges that ministry district offices and maintenance contractors faced keeping highway rights-of-way manageable and attractive. Luckily, his travels were not without a personal benefit. With his keen interest in good food, in particular pies, Al knew where the best pies in any town could be found.

Al was a great guy to work with. He always had a positive attitude toward his work and his colleagues. Over the last four decades, Al made a lot of friends in the ministry. He was well respected and very much liked by everyone.

While he was a dedicated ministry employee and a great co-worker, Al is as much a renaissance man as any guy can be. He is a real family man; proud of his two sons, and most recently, his new grandson. During the 2010 Olympics, Al and his wife Kathy performed at the Richmond O Zone with their band (see Page 30). Known as "Roadman" by the BC Bolters truck club, Al's hobbies include restoring early 1950s Chevrolet trucks, playing guitar, fishing and playing golf. Although we will all miss Al, we wish him the best in his retirement. ♦

Al has a working lunch.

Medal designed by Beverly van Druten-Blais which reads "Al Planiden – Environmental Champion – Our Gold Medal Winner."

The One and Only Bill Smith

Submitted by Jim Gerow, Acting Project Manager

After 38 years of public service with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Bill Smith retired on Feb. 26. Bill started his career with the ministry on Sept. 18, 1972, with the Locations Branch (Design and Surveys) in Victoria. He worked as an Engineering Aide in the Saanich District, then as an Engineering Assistant in Cranbrook and Squamish.

He became a Bridge Project Supervisor, then a Project Manager in Nelson. He completed his career on time and on budget as Project Director of the Okanagan Corridor in Kelowna. He worked on too many projects to mention. Bill always liked the fact that he was listed as the one and only "Bill Smith" in the provincial government.

A retirement party was held Feb. 18, at the Ramada Inn, in Kelowna, where 85 of his friends and colleagues had an opportunity to roast and toast Bill.

For those of us who were lucky enough to have had a chance to work with Bill, we will remember the things that made him...let's say...unique. There was his talk about the old days in the field doing survey work with equipment that would now be called antique – but the best equipment in his eyes. Or how he could remember things from way back when. And yes, he is proud to say he never had a Blackberry.

Computers and technology were never as good as things on paper. (Just one look in his office would have shown you that). While fond of paper, Bill was also a big believer in recycling. From his elementary school days he re-used his paper lunch bag the whole year! He reuses recloseable plastic bags and containers that package supermarket products. He is a man ahead of his time.

The truth is he is a true project champion...a person who gets things done. It is nice to see that someone who works so hard to get things done makes it to a director's position. He is one who like so many of our other ministry veterans and newcomers, takes up all work challenges of getting things done in the "can do ministry."

He will now champion his home and family in Nelson, work in his well-loved garden, travel and hike, as well as perform his volunteer work.

Bill, as co-workers and B.C. citizens we thank you for all your hard work and dedication to ensuring the safety of the travelling public. Have a great retirement and enjoy your time – you have earned it. And send us a few of your famous zucchini loaves, from time to time, as we'll miss them at our meetings! ♦

Bill Smith at work in 1972.

Bill Smith with A/Regional Director Norm Parkes, on Feb. 18, 2010.

Staff Roundup

BC Railway Company (BCRC) recently joined the ministry, as a new government entity. This brings 28 new staff into the ministry including **Gord Westlake**, VP Operations and **Kevin Steinberg**, VP Finance/CFO, and **Shelley Westerhout Hardman**, Corporate Secretary.

BCRC's land and finance units will integrate into the ministry by the end of 2010. In the meantime, the land unit will report to **Gord Westlake**, and the finance unit will report to **Kevin Steinberg**. The Port Sub unit, which will remain in BCRC, will continue to report to **Gord Westlake**.

Carol Bishop is the ministry's lead on the BCRC from a financial perspective. She is also responsible for financial/accounting issues, forecasts and reporting for TI Corporation and BC Transit and provides support for such entities as BC Ferries and TransLink.

Chief Operating Officer **Dave Byng** is the executive lead for BCRC with Pacific Gateway Project Director **Lisa Gow** providing assistance and direction.

Manager of Engagement Initiatives Tracy Houser.

Jennifer Cownden is the new Executive Coordinator for Deputy Minister **Peter Milburn**. Previously, she was Executive Coordinator, Highways Department.

Maryanne Stoughton, from the Finance and Management Services Department, is Senior Executive Assistant to Deputy Minister **Peter Milburn** while **Stephanie Shaw** is away on parental leave.

Janice Rashbrook has accepted a temporary appointment as the Executive Coordinator, for Highways ADM **Mike Proudfoot**. Janice comes from the Ministry of Citizen's Services.

Shelley Pooler is Executive Assistant with ADM of Finance and Management Services **Nancy Bain**.

The Partnership Department's **Land Management Branch** and the **property staff** from the Highways Department's Properties and Business Management Branch have amalgamated into the **Land Branch** within the Partnership Department.

Maria Braden is Regional Manager, Corporate and Operational Services Northern Region.

Patti Sandham is Avalanche and Weather Systems Manager. Patti has worked for the ministry for 30 years, including the past 17 with Avalanche and Weather Programs.

Vicki Yeats has joined the Infrastructure Development and Marine Branch. She will be managing issues and projects related to coastal and inland ferries.

Christine Haltner is Correspondence Advisor with Writing Services, where she has been working as a Senior Writer.

Henry Lew, Traffic Operations Engineer, is A/Manager, Traffic Engineering, with the South Coast Region.

As Manager of Engagement Initiatives, **Tracy Houser** supports the Employee Advisory Forum and projects including the Work Environment Survey and distribution of the survey's results to business units in the ministry.

Jim Barnes has joined our Ministry as Manager, Corporate Initiatives with the Engineering Branch. Jim is working on a number of files including the Climate Change Engineering Adaptation project.

Hugh Eberle is the new West Kootenay District Operations Manager. Since 1999, he has worked in the district, most recently as District Technician, managing the Development Approvals section and playing a role in Operations.

Grant Lachmuth is Project Director of the Okanagan Corridor, based in Kelowna. Grant's 33-year career with the ministry, has spanned all three regions and HQ.

Julie Lawrence, Transit Program Officer for the Transit Branch, is on a temporary assignment with the Ministry of Environment in Nelson. The new Acting Transit Program Officer is **Tabitha Garcia**, from the Finance and Management Services Department.

Guy Cookson and **Stefan Currie-Roberts** are working on various initiatives in the Transportation Planning and Policy Department, including the Wood Innovation Design Centre project.

Erin Moxon is with the South Coast Region Project Management group.

Jody Deane is working on the Evergreen Line project.

Deborah Newby is with the Okanagan Valley Corridor Project.

Kevin Volk, Nathan Popp, Ryan Spillett and Leeanne Jones are in the Transportation Policy Branch, which now includes climate action work.

Ryan Oakley has joined the West Kootenay District as the District Program Engineer.